

HOME NEWS

Mrs Thatcher firm on missiles as left fails to force debateBy Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent, Westminster

Mrs Thatcher yesterday confirmed in the Commons her determination to back American proposals for strengthening Europe's nuclear defences.

Angry Labour left-wing MPs failed in their attempt to force an emergency debate before today's joint meeting in Brussels on theatre nuclear forces.

The Prime Minister told the House that Mr Francis Pym, the Defence Secretary, would be making a statement tomorrow after the important decision had been taken in Brussels on theatre nuclear forces and the American request that they should be deployed in five European countries including Britain.

Mrs Thatcher, to loud Conservative cheers, said it would be a calamity for the whole alliance if a decision to modernise theatre nuclear weapons was not taken. The greatest danger to any country was weakness in defence, she said.

Using an emergency debate, which was rejected by the Speaker, Mr Frank Aillaud, Labour MP for Salford East, told the House that the Defence Secretary would be supporting proposals for theatre nuclear missiles under American control, should again be deployed on British soil. There must be no amputation without representation, Mr Aillaud said.

Mr Robert Cryer, Labour MP for Keighley, leading the left-wing attack, said that the more of these missiles we had in

Parliamentary report, page 12

MPs to study council house sales

By Our Political Correspondent

The first of the new departmental select committees of the Commons to decide on a specific subject for investigation is the Environmental Committee, whose chairman is Mr Bruce Douglas-Mann, a solicitor and Labour MP for Merton, Mitcham and Morden.

It will examine the financial and social implications of the sale of council houses.

Yesterday, through their clerk, Mr Andrew Hubner, the committee members said that they would welcome written evidence and indications of a wish to give oral evidence from people who have published works of this subject.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Select Committee yesterday elected Mr Anthony Kershaw, Conservative MP for Stroud, as chairman. Their first task will be to examine the working of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office before a chosen subject for special investigation.

Meanwhile the Social Services Select Committee is in a predicament by failing to elect a chairman. Mr David Ennals, former Secretary of State for Social Services, and Mrs Renée Short, Labour MP for Wolverhampton, North-east, who has had much experience in chairing similar committees, received four votes each. The committee is to meet again to settle the issue.

Plaid Cymru are complaining that neither of their two MPs has been given a place on the Welsh Affairs Committee.

Big guns aim for 10,000 mobile votes

By Alan Hamilton

Britain the greater would be the danger. There was no freedom anywhere if we all finished up in a radioactive cinder heap.

Mrs Thatcher replied that if he wanted a reduction in theatre nuclear forces the first thing would be to persuade the Soviet Union to withdraw the 129 SS2s which it already had in service.

To a reminder from the Conservative benches that more than 90 per cent of the population supported an increase in defence spending, the Prime Minister agreed that most people wished to see our defence properly defended, with enough troops and enough nuclear forces to deter any potential aggressor at each and every level.

As the clamour for a debate continued, Mr Callaghan decided to swim with the tide although he made clear, to derisive rumblings from the Tory benches, that he might well not find himself wholly in agreement with all Labour MPs. Indeed, Mr Callaghan did not appear to consider the matter as urgent, a priority at some of his backbenchers.

To suggestions that the Opposition could have chosen nuclear weapons as the main topic of debate, he replied that the subjects chosen were equally important but he would continue to press for a debate in government time.

With the House rising for the Christmas recess at the end of next week, there is unlikely to be a debate on the nuclear debate until early in the new year.

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Mr Hume invited to No 10

The Prime Minister has invited Mr John Hume, the new leader of Northern Ireland's Social Democratic and Labour Party, for talks at Downing Street.

The future of the Government's initiative on Northern Ireland and its proposed political conference lie largely with Mr Hume, and it is expected that Mrs Thatcher will try hard to tempt him to attend the conference.

The SDLP has delayed the talks by refusing to take part because it has been told it will be ruled out of order if it attempts to discuss the so-called Irish dimension.

The party's attitude prompted Mr Gerard Fitt, MP for Belfast, West, to quit as leader recently.

No date is understood to have been fixed for the meeting, but in view of the commitments of both Mrs Thatcher and Mr Hume it is believed they will not meet until after Christmas.

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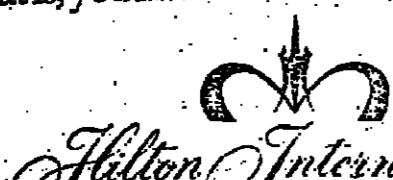
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Challenge to the City's election practices

By Annabel Ferriman

The election practices of the City of London illustrate the democratic. I expressed wishes of the electorate and perpetuate an oligarchy, it was claimed in the High Court yesterday.

Mr Donald Silk, a solicitor from the Barbican, in the City of London, is challenging the right of the City's Court of Aldermen to exclude him after he was duly elected for the Aldersgate ward on July 23 last. The aldermen refused to approve his election at a meeting in September.

Mr Susan Reeves, the Labour candidate, was roundly off her campaign with a public meeting addressed by Mr Wedgwood Benn, while Mr Diane Clouston, the Liberal hopeful was relying on the unusual combination of Mr David Steel and Mr Dick Taverne, QC, who was accompanying the Liberal Leader to warn any remaining voters that Labour was no longer the party of Gaitskell.

Mr Richard Page, the Conservative candidate, is confident of keeping the seat in Government hands in the light of a 16,328 majority by his predecessor at the general election. But none the less he finished his campaign in style, with a visit from Lord Thorneycroft, the party chairman, bearing a message of cheer from the Prime Minister.

With no burning local issues to raise, the political atmosphere in this predominantly suburban constituency 20 miles from the city, the campaign has been fought chiefly on the Government's economic measures.

Mr Page has campaigned on the necessity for unpleasant measures to steer the economy to calmer waters. He describes the local voters as "economically literate", and claims that most of them realize the need for cuts in public spending.

But not even Mr Page expects to repeat the general election performance of Mr Geoffrey Dodington, whose retirement was not available when the Bill was published two weeks ago.

Mrs Chalker emphasized that there would be transitional rules to prevent an overall loss of benefit for "the vast majority of claimants". The only exception would be those with more than £2,000 capital, who would be excluded from benefit by the Bill.

That change would mean that 13,000 people would lose all their benefit; but 36,000 claimants with capital between £1,200 and £2,000 would receive extra money.

The largest group of losers would be the 320,000 families claiming supplementary benefit whose households contain a non-dependant expected to contribute towards the rent.

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About 400,000 school-leavers aged under 19 would lose from the Bill's proposal to delay their entitlement to benefit until the end of the holiday after they left school.

Wind and rain lashed Britain yesterday, bringing chaos to many roads. Storm damage appeared worst in the south of England.

Motors were warned to take extreme care in conditions described as "atrocious", and parts of the West Country were still without electricity after 18 hours.

Winds reached more than 50mph in several places, and 104mph at Pravle Point, South Devon. An 85mph wind was recorded in Guernsey.

In south Devon a baby aged 12 months escaped when a pine tree crashed into his nursery in force 10 winds.

His parents, Mr Anthony Prowse, a solicitor, and his wife June, found him laughing happily in the wrecked room in their 50-year-old cottage in Stoke Gabriel.

In Hampshire fallen trees blocked several main roads, including three leading into Stockbridge. The AA said:

"Hampshire certainly had the worst of it. There is debris everywhere."

There was a six-mile traffic jam on the M1 after two lorries jack-knifed near St Albans, Hertfordshire, and traffic came to a standstill on the M5 at the Honiton turnoff in Devon when a lorry was blown over.

On the M4 a 30mph speed limit was in force on the Severn Bridge, with only one lane operating in each direction.

The weather seems worse than it really is because we have been enjoying such a "mild spell", the AA said. The London Weather Centre also said the high winds and rain were "nothing exceptional" for December.

Mr Haughey names new Cabinet

Output from Britain's collieries during the week in which the miners voted to accept the National Coal Board's 20 per cent wage offer was the highest since March last year.

Last week's figures are likely to be even better, Sir Derek Ezra, the board chairman, said when he visited Hucknall colliery, near Nottingham, yesterday.

Deep-mined output was one million tonnes higher than in the same period last year and the industry was back on course to achieve its output objective for the year, Sir Derek said.

In the 33 weeks since the beginning of the financial year the board had sold 6,200,000 tonnes more coal than last year, the biggest increase being in its power station business.

Because of the amicable settlement of our wage negotiations the industry can now go on to build from a secure base. That is the immediate benefit from last week's ballot result, Sir Derek said.

The new Cabinet is:

Mr George Colley: Foreign Affairs; Mr Brian Lenihan: Defence; Mr Padraig Flynn: Finance; Mr Tony Benn: Environment; Mr Desmond O'Malley: Justice; Mr Gerard Collins: Finance; Mr Michael O'Kennedy: Environment; Mr Sylvester Barrett: Labour Relations; Mr Peter Tizard: Education; Mr John Morris: Wales; Mr Ray McSharry: Irish Speaking Affairs; Mrs Maire Geoghegan Quinn: Health; Mr Michael Woods: Power; Mr Patrick Power: Posts and Telecommunications; Mr Albert Reynolds.

Loddi Denning, the Master of the Rolls, said on Monday that he was beginning to think that the human rights convention, which contained most fundamental freedoms, should be incorporated into British law because of "the tendency nowadays for judges to forget their duties".

Professor James Fawcett told students of the police staff college at Bramshill in Hampshire: "I am a little sceptical whether it is the best way of achieving the result we want."

He said that last year there were 2,500 applications to the commission, which were referred to 340 registered solicitors. No more than 100 were treated as substantive.

In an affidavit Mr Silk said that the aldermen were able to frustrate the democratic expression of views of the electorate. "In these days it does not seem right; I am sure that the electors would be amazed to be told that their wishes can be ignored in this way."

He claimed that the veto used was invalid under law because of the terms of the Representation of the People Act, 1949, which applied to City elections in the same way as to other.

Aldermen had been abolished elsewhere in England and Wales under the Local Government Act, 1972, but had been allowed to remain in the City of London because in the City they were democratically elected.

"Any suggestion of a veto is repugnant to Parliament," his affidavit said.

He argued that when Mr Silk was presented to the meeting of 22 aldermen on September 16, no alderman three times

had been present, so he had no chance of answering any of the questions which have been

rying them, which was contrary to "natural justice". Not only was his evidence rejected by the aldermen, but his affidavit was also rejected.

The last time the aldermen's veto was challenged in court was in the 1960s.

Mr Ian Cleaveland, QC, for the Court of Aldermen said that before the man could become an alderman of the City of London he had to go through two stages. The first was an election. "Who's rules were to be followed for the Representation of the People Act?"

The second was the procedure by which the person elected had to submit himself for adoption by the Court of Aldermen. That stage was based on ancient custom.

Before 1761 the aldermen were chosen for one year, from which the existing aldermen chose one or more. That was changed to the present system in 1714, having the aldermen three times

re-elected.

"We see the scheme as a means of putting a listed building to good use and at the same time getting an income from it," British Rail said yesterday.

The council's reason for rejecting the scheme, against the advice of its officers, is that it would bring extra visitors to the town, which for most of the year is already over-run with tourists.

It could be quite wrong to suggest that the council is against tourists," Mr John Collier, a member of the planning committee, said yesterday.

"But what you have to bear in mind is that Windsor already attracts between five and six million visitors a year."

Mr Jack Jarrow, the only Labour member of the council, said that it was sad to have to reject what appeared to be an enterprising and desirable project.

British Rail claims that there is considerable local support for the proposed exhibition and that it has been welcomed by residents, groups, the tourist board and the chamber of commerce.

A public consultation exercise conducted by the council also indicated a majority in favour.

Mr Jarrow, however, maintains that most residents' opinions are unrepresentative of public opinion.

Too many tourists for worried Windsor

By John Young

Planning Reporter

British Rail and Madame Tussaud's have appealed against

refusal by Windsor and Maidenhead District Council to approve a new permanent exhibition devoted to "Royalty and Railways" in Windsor.

A public inquiry is due to start on January 10, 1980, at the Royal

Court of Justice in London.

The inquiry continues today.

The inquiry continues today

JUL 1979

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Exocet
Experience
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Freedom
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Far East
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Gemini
Guns
High Seas
Helicopter Carriers
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Respect
Sailing
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Sea Cat
Spithead Pheasant
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Sea Slug
Sea Dart
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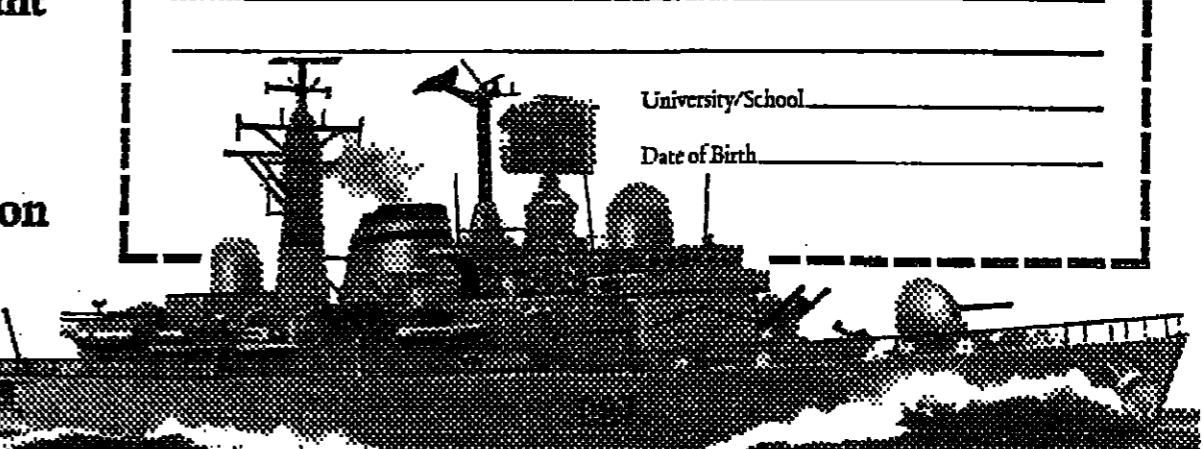
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The Navy's new Short Career Commission

HOME NEWS

Health service bureaucracy will be cut and jobs will vanish in simplified structure

By John Roper
Health Services Correspondent

The complicated management structure that has stifled quick decision-making since the reorganization of the National Health Service in 1974 is to be untangled over the next two years.

A government consultative document, published yesterday under title *Patients First*, is aimed at reducing bureaucracy and concentrating responsibility at district and hospital level.

Mos of the 90 area health authorities will disappear to be replaced by about 150 new district authorities. The structure will be simplified and duplication of functions at two or three levels will go. Some jobs will be lost. The Government estimates that the changes will save 10 per cent, about £30m of administrative and management costs.

Some office premises will be sold and the money put to patient care. The future of Community Health Councils, the public's "watchdog", is put in question.

Doctors are likely strongly to resist a proposal that consultant appointments should be the responsibility of the new district authorities.

Discussion on the document must be completed by April 30, after which the 14 regional authorities will have to introduce the changes over about two years.

Mr Patrick Jenkins, Secretary of State for Social Services, said yesterday: "The service needs effective local leadership.

Patients First: Consultative paper on the structure and management of the National Health Service in England and Wales (Stationery Office, £1).

That is what we are determined to give it."

The proposals were aimed at "the top hamper of management". There was duplication at two or three levels of management of domestic, catering and portering services. That must all be brought to a single level, the hospital.

It was impossible, he said, to say how many jobs would disappear. There was much natural wastage. There would be no automatic transfer of functions to the new authorities.

Staff concerned would be consulted on the idea of a national staff commission had been rejected.

The Government says that maximum delegation of responsibility to those in the hospital and community services within policies determined by the district authorities, matched by a strengthening of hospital management, is the most important change needed.

Each big hospital or group, and associated community services, should have a senior administrator and nurse, who would take responsibility in conjunction with medical staff. Wherever possible the two should be directly responsible to the district administrator and nursing officer, and hospital staff in non-clinical supportive services should be accountable to the hospital administrator.

About 38 single district areas already existed and would not be changed. All multidistrict areas should be reconstructed. Most new districts would have

a population of 200,000 or more. A few might be below 150,000, and a very few above 500,000. Regional authorities would consult universities about medical schools' needs.

The membership of the new authorities would be reduced from 33 for the biggest area health authority to about 20, and the chairman appointed by the Secretary of State.

There would be four local authority members. The practice of having a consultant, a general practitioner, a nurse, a university nominee and a trade unionist as members would continue; but these would not be formally elected staff representatives on the authority.

Present arrangements for the administration of the family practitioner services should be retained, but one Family Practitioner Committee might cover more than one district.

The document says that in future health authorities will be less remote from local services and therefore the need for separate "consumer representation" as provided by Community Health Councils was less clear. Next year the councils would cost £4m. That money, Mr Jenkins suggested, might be better spent on patient care.

After the proposed changes come into effect, the regional health authorities will come under scrutiny.

Patients First: Consultative paper on the structure and management of the National Health Service in England and Wales (Stationery Office, £1).

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Labour fight for consumer bodies

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

Labour Party spokesmen found *Patients First* a remarkable form of "consultation document".

"In many areas it sets out firm proposals which are not open to argument or discussion," Mr Sosy Orme, MP for Selby West, who was Minister for Social Security in the Labour Government, declared.

"Its main interest lies in the attempt to put right the disastrous decisions made by Sir Keith Joseph in the Conservative Government's reorganization of the health service in 1974."

The Opposition will insist on an early Commons debate on the document and on the report of the Royal Commission on the Health Service.

"We think the paragraph on the community health councils sounds the death knell for these useful bodies, which the royal commission recommended should be strengthened and given wider powers," Mr Orme said.

"It is crucial that there

should be some body representing the views of consumers standing between the Government and the administration of the health service, and we shall fight for the retention of these councils."

He criticized the sections on industrial democracy. While admitting that Labour did not have much success when it tried to introduce that change, Mr Orme said that the unions were now showing closer interest, and it was not the time to abandon the idea.

Reducing the representation of local authorities on the district health authorities was a retrograde step. Those councils represented essential local democracy.

Mr Roland Moyle, MP for Lewisham East, former Minister of State for Health, said: "We fundamentally disagree with the Government's decision not to hold an inquiry into the London health services, where there are massive problems."

"There are four health authorities responsible for London, with 12 teaching hospitals, 13 postgraduate hospitals, an inner-city zone which is a

deprived area, and illogically shaped area boundaries. The organization cries out for a special review."

BMA welcome: The Government's plans to cut back the NHS bureaucracy were welcomed by the British Medical Association (the Press Association reports). A spokesman said: "The fact that the consultative document is called *Patients First* is encouraging, and the statement in it that 'the needs of the patient must be paramount' must be welcomed."

Mr William Darling, chairman of the National Association of Health Authorities, had reservations about the cuts that might be saved. He thought it unfortunate that staff who might be adversely affected were left in a vacuum.

Mr Fraser Milne, secretary of the Institute of Health Service Administrators, welcomed the determination to avoid wholesale upheaval.

Labour was also disappointed that the Government had so easily accepted that family practitioner committees should

continu

over many years had encouraged the university to foster what were always known as "uneconomic" institutions.

Most of the institutes in the British Postgraduate Medical Federation would also be unable to continue to operate. Forty-five per cent of the federation's students were from overseas.

In a letter to Dr Edward Llewellyn, civil engineer for the

University Grants Committee (UGC), Lord Annan said that three of the university's schools will almost certainly have to close within two or three years", unless the Government prepared to make special provision for them.

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine took 74 per cent of its full-time students from overseas, the Royal Postgraduate Medical School 47 per cent, and the School of Oriental and African Studies 35 per cent.

"There is no conceivable way in which by the rest of the university tightening its belt these three institutions can be saved," Lord Annan says.

This was not an exaggeration, blackmail. It was simply a recognition that governments

which were in general inappropriate to their age.

CEE pilot schemes have been operating since 1972. Last year nearly 21,000 candidates from 921 schools and colleges entered for CEE examinations. Most of them were 17. Two thirds took only one subject. English and mathematics were the most popular.

The CEE is primarily intended for pupils who have achieved grades 24 in CSE examinations at the end of the fifth year and who want to stay at school for another year.

The report suggests that many of those pupils were now taking or retaking O levels or CSEs

which were in general inappropriate to their age.

It says that if the new C examination is to satisfy needs of young people who would be going straight into employment it must be capable of ensuring basic communication and numerical skills, providing some element vocational preparation, assisting the development of personal and social skills relevant to work, and offer certification which gives assurance to employers on the points.

Proposed for a Certificate of Extended Education: (Comm. 775, Stationery Office, £2.25).

New director possesses a true civil servant's tact

Polytechnic head hopes to build bridges

By Ian Bradley

The new director of the Polytechnic of North London is to be Dr David MacDowall. He will succeed Mr Terence Miller, the present director, on January 1.

Dr MacDowall, who is 49 and at present assistant director of the polytechnic, will be a bridge between the Department of Education and Science and the University Grants Committee. Dr MacDowall said: "One needs administrative capacity and care and sensitivity about the needs of different people, including students. I believe in civilized negotiations."

Dr MacDowall feels that the

polytechnic has changed since it got its image of a straitlaced establishment. He said: "I hope the days of conflict are receding. It is now a very serious institution, and I hope to go on building bridges with staff and students to strengthen the end for which the place exists, the education of students".

He hopes to encourage the development of evening degree courses, especially in humanities and social studies.

Although he was reluctant to say how he would deal with the student occupations that have become something of a regular feature of life at the polytechnic, Dr MacDowall seems unlikely to employ the military tactics of his predecessor.

His main academic interest is in the contribution of numismatics to the reconstruction of ancient history, although perhaps the students' union should take note that he has a particular interest in the successors to Alexander the Great.

Those wily ancients might yet prove to have a trick or two up their sleeves which could prove handy when dealing with rebellious students.

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HOME NEWS**Council plans to offer 50 rewards to help curb vandalism**

Arthur Osman, Birmingham housing department has proposed that rewards should be paid for information leading to the conviction of vandals who damage housing estates.

The housing committee is set to approve the move tomorrow, when the reward may be paid from the savings revenue account.

A senior official said yesterday that because of the inconvenience and loss of amenities offered the committee would have to pay out if that did not reduce vandalism. "We do not know of any other authority that has taken this step."

Birmingham has nearly 600 council homes, of which a quarter are flats and maisonettes.

Mr Richard Westlake, the housing officer, said that vandalism on estates, particularly historic estates with blocks of garages, presented considerable management difficulties.

As a general rule, the aims on the estates are

to encourage private ownership of the arts, including possible further tax relief.

Moving forward by Mr Neil St John-Stevens, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Arts.

With the help of Lord Udny's campaign is to be used in the new year, coming to individuals and groups to hear how best they can complement public support for the arts.

Various meetings are planned by Mr St John-Stevens, and a committee will consider events of one kind and another.

We are working very closely with the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts, and thinking of various things, a programme showing the extent of tax concessions. We are looking at what further tax concessions might be desirable.

Mr St John-Stevens was examining the setting up of the Office of Arts and Libraries as separate entity with him, said, "now had this as well as a say in the Cabinet."

On the Arts Council grant, which should be made known next month, he said he did not want to cut it completely to sustain all its old clients, and start off anything new; it would want to "move its money out a bit".

The interests of the two departments, Victorian and Albert and the Environment Department.

Independent trustees were still to be appointed and he hoped to announce their names in February.

Two other aspects of the arts that have concerned him have been film and the arts in education.

He said he was working very closely with British Film Institute officials and Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Trade, about further financing of the institute. "There will be positive proposals about that and I am anxious to promote closer cooperation between television and cinema, which will be of benefit to both."

The schools contained the audiences of the future, and not enough was being done in the field of art education. He was working on that with Mr Mark Carlisle, the Secretary of State for Education.

Mr St John-Stevens, who emphasized that he was still completely in charge of the department, having recently asked Mr Neil Macfarlane, a junior minister in the Department of Education and Science, to assist him, said that there were still difficulties outstanding.

On the establishment of a gallery adjoining the Tate to house the Turner collection, he said he hoped, after a substantial offer from a foundation, to make an announcement in the new year.

Fifth of those in jail are poor readers

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

A report for the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders says today that 21 per cent of the prison population in 1977-78 had a reading age of less than 10 years.

The report, by Mr Harold Marks, a former government Inspector of adult and further education, says that a survey by Devon probation officers found that 327 out of 1,500 people under their supervision had literacy problems.

Mr Marks, who is retired, included in his former duties inspection of prisons, borstals and detention centres. In the report he gives details of eight educational schemes in which offenders are given tuition in the community and also ten more.

He concludes that offenders should be able to continue outside prison tuition they have received inside.

Education for Offenders: provision and needs, free from NACRO, 159 Clapham Road, London SW5 0PU.

500,000 appeal to expand villages for disabled

A Staff Reporter An appeal for £500,000 to widen more jobs and homes for the disabled was launched in London yesterday by Lord Rech, chairman of the Village Centres Association.

The association runs the two villages, Enham village centre, Hampshire, and Papworth village settlement, Cambridgeshire, which were founded 60 years ago.

They provide jobs for 540 disabled people and homes for them and their families, and appeal is intended to draw a further 110 people into villages.

One reason for the appeal

Boy opens a lake to aid industry and amenities

From John Charlton, Falstone, Northumberland

The first section of the 1,000 acre Kielder reservoir began to fill yesterday after a schoolboy aged nine initiated the closing of the gate on a secondary dam now holding back the head waters of the river North Tyne.

He added: "In spite of this difficulty, it is estimated that the amount of water would not be less than £100,000 and could be as high as £200,000." That was not an inconsiderable sum on the repeat account.

The matter was not confined to Birmingham, but he thought rewards might help.

A senior official explained:

"It is often difficult to say

that damage is malicious. But we hope the rewards will have a deterrent effect at the very least if potential vandals know there is a greater chance of being reported."

It is difficult to say why

people are reluctant to report

such an offence. Our rewards scheme might just show them that the problem is seen as a serious one."

We are considering further tax reliefs', Mr St John-Stevens says

More arts sponsors sought

Kenneth Gossing is Reporter

Moves to encourage private ownership of the arts, including possible further tax reliefs,

are being planned by Mr Neil St John-Stevens, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Arts.

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V licence strike urged by Plaid Cymru

Plaid Cymru today urged television viewers in Wales to withhold their licence fees and tell Government to set up a Welsh language television service on the proposed fourth channel.

The licence campaign, backed by Cardiff by the TV's spokesman on broadcasting, Mr Dafydd Thomas, the MP for Merioneth.

He claimed there was no workable alternative to a full Welsh language service, because it will allow the growth of a proper television service in Welsh, with a whole range of programmes, including peak-hour viewing.

Secondly, it will remove cordon on the main existing television channels, and widen the rents of thousands of Welsh-speaking viewers who did Welsh programmes by virgin to channels in England.

Plaid Cymru has set up a fund to hold licence fees in trust until a "proper television service" is established.



Jonathan Hall watching the water flow after he closed the Bakethin dam yesterday.

on the main dam, which will be three-quarters of a mile long, was ahead of schedule when the weather stopped operations in the autumn.

The scheme, which includes 24 miles of additional pipeline to carry water as far south as the Teesside industrial areas and parts of North Yorkshire, was devised as a single answer to the North-east region's estimated requirement of 350 million gallons a day by the year 2000, rising to 400 million, more than 100 million gallons a day above current consumption. Kielder Water will be able to store 41,350 million gallons.

Some of the forward calculations were made on the estimated requirements of the steel industry before its current troubles arose.

Mr Frank Ridley, chief executive designate of the Northumbrian Water Authority, said yesterday that steel's demands had obviously slowed down, but the case for the Kielder scheme remained unaltered, particularly since it seemed that BSC intended to continue the development of new projects on Teesside.

He thought that the water from the Kielder scheme would be needed by 1981, when it is due to flow.

No feathers fly in assault on batteries

By Hugh Clayton

Agriculture Correspondent

Mr Spike Milligan, the comedian, opened a new animal welfare campaign yesterday amid the loud clucking of five caged chickens. "Be quiet", he said, "we are fighting for you".

He and other opponents of factory farms gathered in a public house in Whitehall before presenting a petition with almost 200,000 signatures across the road to Downing Street. The petition called for a rundown, leading to a ban in 10 years, of battery production of chickens.

Asked if he would approve of illegal action to "liberate" battery chickens, Mr Milligan replied: "Yes, I would. I might even join in. It is the eroding factor in the quality of our own morality that is the worst part of it".

Battery farming of chickens is one of the most widespread forms of intensive husbandry. Mr Peter Roberts, general secretary of the Campaign for Welfare Farming, said that two chicken units were housed on floorspace the size of a long-playing record's sleeve.

Miss Brigid Brophy, the author, who supported the petition, said: "Intensive farming is simply a synonym for a concentration camp".

Mr Neville Wallace, director-general of the British Poultry Federation, which represents poultry farmers and packers, said later that members were always ready to consider better methods.

Journalist again loses plea over dismissal

Mr C. Gordon Trotter, who was dismissed by The Financial Times after a dispute over editorial control of his daily "Lombard" column, yesterday lost the latest round of his claim for unfair dismissal.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal in London ruled against Mr Trotter's complaint that rejection of his claim by an industrial tribunal was perverse.

Mr Justice Slynn, the president, said that although the scope of the column had increased over the years it did not follow that Mr Trotter had an implied right to publish articles as he chose, written in the way he chose.

Mr Trotter, aged 65, of Bedford Hill Road, Worplesdon, Surrey, had worked for the paper for 45 years before being dismissed in 1978. He wrote the "Lombard" column for 21 years.

The tribunal yesterday accepted the sincerity of Mr Trotter's views about his independence, which had established his reputation as a journalist.

The tribunal yesterday also ruled against Mr Trotter's contention that his dismissal was unfair because he was not given a warning. He was refused leave to refer the case to the Court of Appeal but can still apply to that court for leave.

Mr Trotter was in the United States yesterday, but after being told of the appeal tribunal's decision he said he was "very disappointed". He had not decided whether to pursue the case further.

Here comes the sun — shining hope of the alternative energy movement. And rightly so: it's the prime mover of most of our planet's energy.

At present, the world is largely dependent on the energy poured onto the earth by sunlight hundreds of millions of years ago — stored in fossil fuels: coal, oil and natural gas. For years, humanity has happily plundered that solar savings bank, mainly by running down the oil account.

As a result, we're entering the 1980s precariously balanced between tight oil supply and rising oil demand. We need alternatives urgently.

Coal is one. The world has plenty of it, but coal won't play a full part until it can be

processed easily into liquid fuels which suit today's technology. Mobil has developed a way to convert coal-derived methanol into high-octane petrol; at present it's expensive, but we're trying to bring costs down.

Mobil is working on solar, too — with a new way to make silicon cells which convert sunlight directly into electricity. It's still a long-term project, but it looks like a pretty hot prospect for the future.

These efforts are part of a worldwide quest for viable alternative energy sources, including wind, tidal and wave power, biomass, geothermal, hydrogen and fusion. They're all still a long way from making a large-scale contribution — but hopes for

the future rest on today's research.

Why should an oil company be developing alternatives to oil? Because we have unique expertise in energy; we're used to investing vast financial resources; and we're motivated: we, too, want to outlast the era of abundant oil.

We've every reason under the sun to be prime movers in alternative energy.

Last in a series on energy issues.
For a reprint of the complete series, please write to:
Energy issues, Mobil Oil Company Ltd,
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WEST EUROPE

Sharp reminder to Nato members of need to pay their way to guard against surprise attack

From Henry Stanhope
Defence Correspondent
Brussels, Dec 11

Mr Harold Brown, the United States Defence Secretary, sharply reminded west European allies here today of their obligations under the so-called "transatlantic bargain" which was struck within Nato last year.

The Americans partly under Nato's long-term defence programme, are pushing ahead with a reinforcement programme which would double the size of their land forces in Europe within two weeks of a sudden attack, and triple their air forces over here in even less time.

But in return, they are relying upon west Europe to play its part by providing stocks of equipment and air bases for the reinforcements when they arrived.

The West Germans have extensive plans for requisitioning civilian communications, roads and vehicles to help the Bundeswehr in wartime. The United States want similar provisions made for their own troops when they cross the

Atlantic. Sufficient air bases in Britain is one priority.

His own country was fulfilling its share of the bargain, Mr Brown said, but the Europeans had to contribute their share too, because the Americans could not do it all on their own.

He identified four areas in which the alliance was still falling short of its targets: size of war stocks; capacity to wage electronic warfare; number of reserves; and communications equipment.

It is unlikely however that his remarks, made at what American officials described as a "sombre session" of Nato's military committee, were directed at Mr Francis Pym, the British Defence Planning Committee.

Mr Pym who made a similar appeal, no less robust, could bask in the satisfaction of knowing that Britain has increased its defence budget by 4 per cent in 1979-80. This is not only more than 1 per cent higher than the target set by Nato two years ago but is a better performance than any other country, including the United States. —AP

Paris tribute to Fastnet helicopter crews

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Dec 11

Not only Nato's more impoverished members like Portugal and Turkey, but a number of richer powers such as Denmark, Canada and Italy are failing to meet their three per cent targets this year.

Even the West Germans are unlikely to raise their defence spending by the required amount, although they point out they have a higher budget than most countries already, so should not be under quite the same obligation.

General Zeiner Gunderson, chairman of Nato's Military Committee, presenting his six-monthly report, said there was no sign of a "West German military build-up reaching its peak".

Nato, as sections of a military imbalance were challenged, Nato as sections of a military imbalance were challenged by a delegation of 14 women who visited the Alliance Headquarters today.

"If these costly first-strike non-verifiable weapons systems are deployed, they will undermine the spirit of Salt 2, reverse advances in détente and render the arms race beyond control," said Mrs Kay Camp, of the United States, president of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. —AP

Guide to European Parliament

What Budget defeat would mean

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Dec 11

The European Parliament is expected this week to reject the EEC budget for 1980 and ask for a new draft to be submitted to it. What follows is a plain man's guide to the Parliament, its powers and the implications of the unprecedented action it is contemplating.

The Parliament: There is some doubt whether the European Parliament should go by that name at all. The Rome treaty speaks only of an "assembly". The Parliament certainly has few of the powers usually associated with such a body. Nor can it acquire any more without the permission of EEC member states.

It cannot, for example, make or break governments because there is no supranational European government accountable to it. Nor can it initiate, amend or pass legislation. It can do little more than offer opinions, which member states are required to seek but not to heed.

The one important exception to this essentially consultative role is the part played by the Parliament in determining the size and composition of the EEC's annual budget. Yet even here, there are strict limits to what the Parliament can do.

Direct elections: The first direct elections to the Parliament, whose members were previously appointed by national parliaments, were held between June 7 and June 10 this year. This increased its size from 198 to 410 members but did not change its constitutional position.

None the less, the resolve of Euro-MPs to use such powers as they do possess more boldly than in the past clearly owes much to the self-confidence that has come from being directly elected.

The elections returned a broad centre-right majority, though the Socialists (including the rump of Britain's Labour contingent) emerged as the single biggest group with 112 seats.

The other groups are: Christian Democrats (108),

British and Danish Conservatives (64), Communists (44), Socialists (40), French Gaullists, Irish Fianna Fail, and Danish Progress Party under the joint banner of European Progressive Democrats (22), and others (20).

Budgetary Powers: Each year the European Commission sets up an estimate of the funds needed for the following year to finance EEC policies, and proposes an allocation between the various sectors—agriculture, industry, regional development, social aid to the unemployed and so on.

This estimate is forwarded to EEC budget ministers who invariably make savage cuts of non-agricultural spending and transmit the mutilated remains of the draft budget to the Parliament. The Parliament just as regularly resizes most of these cuts, which are then rejected yet again by the Council of Ministers.

Thus the 1980 draft originally proposed by the Commission came to about £11,650m, whereas the budget which the Parliament is being asked to adopt this week totals only about £10,820m because of pruning by budget ministers of the non-agricultural items.

The Parliament has little control over the three-quarters of the budget spent on supporting farmers' prices and classified as "obligatory" (that is money the EEC is compelled to spend to fulfil obligations laid down in the treaty of Rome).

The Parliament may propose changes in "obligatory" spending but cannot force them on the Council of Ministers. It does have the final say, however, over other expenditure, provided it can muster a three-fifths majority—but cannot increase them beyond an overall limit set by the Commission.

Rejection of the budget would not be quite as calamitous as it might seem. All the same, prolonged deadlock could create severe problems of cash flow particularly for the profligate agricultural sector. The Parliament hopes this threat will be enough to wring concessions from member states.

Budget rejection: Provided more than half the total membership of the House and two thirds of all votes cast are in favour, the Parliament can reject the entire budget and request a new draft.

Implications of rejection: The EEC would not run out of money. The Parliament has no control over budget revenue which is furnished automatically by customs duties, agricultural levies and a portion of the proceeds of value-added tax.

So long as no budget has been adopted, however, the EEC is in principle prohibited from spending more money than the previous year, though some leeway is apparently allowed the Council of Ministers to vote an increase in agricultural expenditure without parliamentary approval.

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Farm spending: This year the Parliament made a novel attempt to freeze some £180m allocated for subsidies to dairy farmers, the need for which it held to be unproven. The Parliament further argued that because this proposal entailed

a democratically excited Parliament.

If, as at present seems likely, the Council's modified budget the Parliament then what is called "twelfth rule" would come into play—month by month in 1980 the EEC would get a twelfth of the 1979 budget.

But the Parliament almost as a whole will be in an aggressive mood when the low-tier Finance ministry, after a trial of electronic voting last night, the vote is expected to be by roll call.

Tomorrow, the Council of Ministers meets here to decide what, according to practice, it can let a few crumble fall from its table to make possible a compromise with the Parliament.

Something will depend on the level of representation of the government of the in the Council of Ministers. The Finance Council that "arrogantly" disregarded the Parliament's amendments to the budget consisted mainly of junior ministers.

Tomorrow, the Council is again demoted to minister of state level by some countries, in a day when nothing but finance ministers would appear

to undermine the rights of Parliament. That threat, "cannot go unanswered".

Dutch kill robbers

Amsterdam, Dec 11—Two

raiders who were shot dead by police yesterday as they tried to escape after a bank robbery were both Italians, from Naples living illegally in the Netherlands, police said today.

Safe haven for world's largest floating dock

From Robert Schull
Amsterdam, Dec 11

The world's biggest floating dock arrived safely in southern Norway yesterday after an arduous 1,300-mile journey which started near the North Cape.

The Russian dock, which was stranded near Murmansk in October, was towed to safety by the two most powerful tug boats in the world, the Rotterdam-based Stolt-London and the Stolt-Kronstadt. It is hoped that repairs can be made to the dock, which would have broken up in the Arctic winter if it had been left stranded.

The journey almost ended in disaster some two weeks ago when heavy storms in the Atlantic forced the convoy to take refuge in a fjord near Trondheim along the coast of central Norway.

French accuse Britain of spreading new dog disease

From Ian Murray
Paris, Dec 11

Britain, already unpopular in

France because of its attempts to sell lamb here, has now fallen into bad odour with French dog breeders. It is all because of the tiny Parvo virus which is running amuck among France's eight million dogs.

The virus comes from Texas, and is apparently a close relative of the virus which causes typhoid in cats. In 1977 it raged around the Lone Star State, killing off the older and weaker of man's best friends.

From Texas, where the virus began to diminish in ferocity after about a year, the virus invaded Europe, presumably

travelling by jet on Texan shoe-soles. The principal migra-

tion routes appear to have been through Britain, Belgium and Holland, where the disease was first noticed last spring.

The symptoms are diarrhoea,

vomiting and often bleeding.

About 5 per cent of the animals which catch it die and the disease is distressing to have to treat.

The first case arrived in

France in June and since then

it has spread widely, although

not uniformly, round the country. Paris and Alsace seem the worst hit with up to 30 cases a day being reported to veterinarians. So far 19 different regions have been affected.

The press conference did

nothing to stop the spread of

the disease, however, and the

result has been a strong state

reaction from the National Union

of Pedigree Dog Breeders call-

ing for the closure of all

French frontiers against the

import of dogs for the next

three months. The union,

which represents 80 per cent

of the small breeders in

France, believes this would be

the best means to limit the

spread of the disease.

Since no cases have been

reported so far in either West

Germany or Spain, the union

points an accusing finger at

Britain as one of the countries

which may have acted as a

carrier of the disease.

A public statement by the

union said angrily that while

the British will not allow

French breeders to export dogs

to Britain they demand that

French frontiers be open to

all to British dogs. This, said

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OVERSEAS

Colonel Gaddafi suspends aid to PLO and says he wants to improve relations with US

Benghazi, Dec 11.—Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, today accused Mr Yasser Arafat, head of the Palestine Liberation Organization, of plotting with officials of Al Fatah against the Palestinian cause.

Colonel Gaddafi said in an interview that statements by Mr Arafat, "containing personal insults about me show there is a conspiracy against the Palestinian revolution".

He added: "There is no difference between Begin (the Israeli Prime Minister) and a Palestinian who is trying to submit the Palestinian people to his will."

The Libyan leader said he understood why the Lebanese preferred to side with Israel rather than Al Fatah. Mr Arafat and the PLO were preparing to sell out the Palestinian people, he said.

"According to Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyans' motives were that if President Carter had reflected there would be a shift in US policy in the Middle East towards a more neutral position. These assurances, he said, came from the President through unofficial but reliable channels.

The assurances had been interpreted as meaning a more neutral American posture in the conflict between the Arabs and Israel. We also believe they might end a more sympathetic attitude towards the Palestinian people, he has been dealt with very unfairly by the Americans".

Colonel Gaddafi said he had called Saturday to express the view of Al Fatah's bureau in Tripoli because of complaints received from Palestinians about the official's conduct.

"He made Palestinians pay in sums of money, he maintained and even tortured certain

of his compatriots", he said—Agence France-Presse.

Acknowledging from United States? The Libyan leader, in another interview, set aside earlier threats against the United States and said Libya wanted to improve its relations with the United States.

"We wish to intensify our dialogue with the United States," he said.

Libya had received assurances from Washington that allowed him to forget for the present his threats to impose an oil embargo against the United States or to consider a reduction in Libyan oil production of two million barrels a day, of which the United States imports 700,000.

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He implied that the Libyans, who have close relations with Iran, had tried to mediate the release of the hostages and were continuing to do so.

"I am quite frankly totally opposed to the holding of hostages, not only in Iran but anywhere in the world," Colonel Gaddafi said. Libya has been accused of harbouring international terrorists, a charge he denies vehemently—New York Times News Service.

Uproar over Belgrade art show

From David Cross
Belgrade, Dec 11

A political uproar has blown up over an exhibition in Belgrade of paintings by Mica Popovic, a Yugoslav painter, who has been accused of "political provocation" in his paintings, which depict scenes of contemporary life painted in predominantly dark and grey colours.

The exhibition remains open, but the attacks began only the day after it was opened. The artist has incorporated in his bleak pictures newspaper headlines about President Tito's social activities, making the contrast obvious.

Five years ago, an exhibition of Mr Popovic's paintings was opened a few hours before it was due to open. He was then having President Tito and his estranged wife full plaudit against the bleak background of Yugoslavia workers in West Germany.

The central figure in the recent exhibition is Godzdenko, symbolizing the Serbian peasant forced to go in search of work abroad. One painting shows him sleeping in a railway waiting room covered with a copy of a newspaper carrying a headline about Marshal Tito's visit to aflower show.

Another entitled "Grozdeno" depicts him with a newspaper carrying a story about President Tito receiving the President of Afghanistan.

There are also portraits of personalities in disfavour with the regime. Nevertheless, the fact that the exhibition has not been closed suggests a change in the authorities' attitude.

Worst of world hunger 'can be eliminated in 20 years'

From David Cross

Washington, Dec 11

The elimination of world hunger should be the primary focus of America's relations with developing countries during the next two decades, a presidential commission has concluded after a 15-month investigation of the problem.

In a preliminary report just published in Washington, the Presidential Commission on World Hunger says that widespread hunger is a cruel fact of our time". Its principal cause is not the occasional dramatic disaster that captures world attention, but the enduring condition of subhuman poverty that afflicts as many as one in five members of the human family.

The report suggests a number of practical steps the United States should take to improve its development policies. These include a recommendation for better coordination of American development assistance programmes under the control of the director of the United States International Development Cooperation Agency.

In addition, the commission suggests that the United States should move "as rapidly as possible" towards increasing its level of economic assistance for developing countries to the goal of 0.7 per cent of the gross national product recommended by the United Nations. The United States currently ranks twelfth behind other industrialized nations in providing development aid.

Finally, the United States Senate should quickly ratify international agreements designed to outlaw the use of starvation as an instrument of war.

To be sure, such an achievement will require a major effort on the part of the developing nations themselves, a high degree of international cooperation and the significant participation of the United States. But we are convinced that the goal can be met if the struggle against hunger receives the priority it deserves.

Australians to attack drug syndicates

From Douglas Aiton

Felbourne, Dec 11

The newly-formed Australian Federal Police, Sir Colin Woods, the former British chief Inspector of Constabulary, is to increase its attack on drug racketeering in Australia.

It is thought that the force will soon begin harassing people believed to be criminal syndicate leaders. Although mainly using its powers against drug trafficking, the police will also employ other federal laws, including currency and banking regulations, in an attempt to convict ringleaders.

The Government is increasingly concerned about the growth of the illicit drug market in Australia. Sir Colin has said that the problem has become "a deeply rooted tree with branches that continue to grow and cast their sinister shadows further across the country".

The figures given by Sir Colin deserve consideration:

one kilogram of heroin can be bought in South-East Asia for \$4,000 (£2,000) and can be sold in Australia at least 10 times as much.

The heroin market is no longer the preserve of small, backstreet operators. It is big business, worth between \$450m and \$100m a year.

"The gloves are off," Sir Colin said in an interview about his plans.

Australia's performance against drug traffickers so far has not been impressive. Only between 2.5 and 5 per cent of all drugs coming into the country are seized, which means that between 600 and 1,200 kilogrammes of heroin may have been smuggled into Australia this year.

Heads of federal and state police forces are meeting in Melbourne as a result of Sir Colin's plans, but the new federal programme is understood to go beyond drug trafficking to involve most major organized crime.

It is believed that there are

New guide soon is Chinese 'red book'

From M. G. Pillai

Kuala Lumpur, Dec 11

The Thai Government, under General Kriangsak Chomphuwek, is under pressure from the armed forces, the National Assembly, and student and trades union leaders amid growing tension along the Thailand-Kampuchean border and the poor performance of the economy. But many observers here believe that it is too early to write General Kriangsak off.

He is helped by the reluctance of the armed forces leadership and the seasoned politicians in the National Assembly to take over, knowing that they would have to face the difficult task of sorting out what a former finance minister, Mr Boonchai Rajapatsorn, recently described as the "economic mess". Facing the country.

The present crisis arose not as one would have reasonably expected from the tension between the border but from the Government's decision to double the electricity and water rates from the beginning of November. The Government had subsidized these rates for years.

There was popular and the

resistance when student and labour leaders threatened to demonstrate in the streets. The minister concerned, Mr Kasame Charavanji, resigned in protest. Since then eight other ministers have stepped down, ostensibly to enable General Kriangsak to reorganize his Cabinet.

But businesses, the most affected by the proposed rate increases, promptly raised their prices but did not bring them down when the rates were announced. The public reaction was a setback for General Kriangsak, who had been careful to maintain support from all factions.

He has also collected powerful enemies, particularly Mr Tanin Kravivis, the former Chief Justice who became Prime Minister after the overthrow of Field-Marshal Thanom Kittikachorn in 1976 and is now a respected and powerful member of the King's Privy Council. General Kriangsak, overthrown in October 1977,

General Kriangsak, who was armed forces commander at that time had quietly made his peace with the students and labour leaders.

He is regularly criticized for the virtual inertia which has re-

Reshaping of Israeli forces is resented

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem, Dec 11

Colonel Gaddafi said in an interview that statements by Mr Arafat, "containing personal insults about me show there is a conspiracy against the Palestinian revolution".

He had told the President

that Libya could and would protect the embassy in Libya. The United States reduced its embassy staff to a minimum after the attack.

Colonel Gaddafi also condemned Iran for the seizure of the United States Embassy in Tehran and the killing of one American soldier.

Although he made some explanations on behalf of the Iranians, he said his action was not in accord with Islam and was hurting the religion's reputation.

He implied that the Libyans, who have close relations with Iran, had tried to mediate the release of the hostages and were continuing to do so.

"I am quite frankly totally opposed to the holding of hostages, not only in Iran but anywhere in the world," Colonel Gaddafi said. Libya has been accused of reducing the sentences of Israeli officers involved in outrages during the invasion of Lebanon.

The plan was devised by the politically moderate Major-General Israel Tal, who yesterday returned from six years in the Army reserves to take over as head of the ground forces command. His promotion was seen by many commentators as a sign that despite his age—56—he was being considered as the next chief of staff.

General Tal is the designer of the Merkava, Israel's only home-produced battle tank and is generally held to believe that the country's strength depends on factors other than territory.

Today Mr Weizmann told the Knesset's defence and foreign affairs committee that the Washington Star report was malicious gossip. He is reported to have said: "It is true that the appointment of General Tal led to disagreements, but the Israeli defence force is not a factory and when a decision is made, it is carried out."

At the start of the afternoon court martial session, Kim Dae Kyu, the former head of South Korea's Central Intelligence Agency, suddenly stood up and told the court that he had decided that defence lawyers could not help him leave behind the true historical account of why he murdered President Park. He said he would defend himself.

The prosecution today wound up its questioning of the eight defendants. The defence case is expected to start tomorrow and verdicts could be handed down by the weekend.

Mr Kim, along with Kim Kee Won, the former President's secretary, and five former KCIA agents charged with murder with intent for rebellion and attempted rebellion, the assassination of President Park and five of his bodyguards. Another KCIA agent is charged with destroying evidence.

The 21 lawyers representing Mr Kim included civil rights lawyers who previously had represented leading dissidents. In dismissing the lawyers

Indian Premier's party calling for skyscraper ban

Delhi, Dec 11.—The People's Party (Lok Dal) of Mr Charan Singh, the caretaker Prime Minister, announced today that if it was returned to power in next month's election it would ban luxury cars and the construction of skyscrapers, In the constituency of Amethi, Uttar Pradesh, on the ground that he had been sentenced to jail for destroying a film criticizing his mother.

In an election manifesto addressed to the people, the party said it would prohibit the manufacture of non-essential items, including refrigerators and television sets.

The party would follow the economic policy advocated by Mahatma Gandhi, based on small cottage industries rather than on development that required large investments but provided relatively few jobs. It promised to break what it called the monopolistic stranglehold of foreign companies over the Indian economy.

The manifesto also proposed the closure of any public enterprise showing continuous losses unless it was vital to the economy.

A programme of austerity was necessary, the party said, to prevent the poor getting poorer. Glaring inequalities of wealth and income were the main ills facing the country.

Election officers today accepted the parliamentary candida-

tacy of Mr Sanjay Gandhi, the younger son of Mrs Indira Gandhi, a former Prime Minister, overruling objections.

The objectors had sought to have Mr Gandhi barred from standing for election in the constituency of Amethi, Uttar Pradesh, on the ground that he had been sentenced to jail for destroying a film criticizing his mother.

The election officers ruled that Mr Gandhi's nomination was valid because an appeal against his sentence was pending at the Supreme Court.

The officers made a similar ruling on objections to the candidacy of Mr V. C. Shukla, a former Minister of Information.

A number of jokers including one "Jimmy Carter" and one Ayatollah Khomeini" appear to be running for the election, the People's Trust of India reported today.

The list of 5,200 nominees published here today also included a bugle-bearing "Lone Horseman", who is opposing Mrs Gandhi at Rae Bareli, Uttar Pradesh.

Whenever he sees a crowd, he rides up, blows his bugle and declares that all political parties and their leaders are corrupt—Reuter and Agence France-Presse.

Ex-manager back

in Hongkong under escort

Hongkong, Dec 11.—Walter Boxall, former Hongkong telephone company property manager, returned from Britain under escort today after being extradited to face charges of corruption in the constituency of Amethi, Uttar Pradesh, on the ground that he had been sentenced to jail for destroying a film criticizing his mother.

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SPORT

Cricket

Boycott opens up his locker at last

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
Sydney, Dec 11

Australians were as comprehensively beaten by England in the world series one-day competition here today as they were by West Indies in Melbourne on Sunday. In 49 overs, which was as many as Australia bowled in their three hours and a half in the field, England made 264 for seven; Australia responded with their final reply of 132, lost by 72 runs. The man of the match was Boycott, who scored 105 like a man inspired.

It was a rousing performance by England. They looked as keen and as fit as Australia. In their second yellow pyjama tour, for the most part, stale and disillusioned. Between the fielding of the two sides there was no comparison. England's was magnificent. Australia's shoddy. For Boycott, it is possible, I think, to put his purple patch down to the pitches, which he has decided are good enough (and so much better than last year) to allow him to change his personal style in his game. He played shot today that he has kept in his locker for years.

There is a difference in capacity, too. England respond splendidly to Boarley; when, on the other hand, Australia are under pressure, Chappell withdraws beneath his sun hat. There is a long way to go yet, and a lot of cricket to play, and a lot can go wrong, but the signs are all that all went wonderfully well.

Boycott's banishing was a revelation. The innings of his which is usually cited as having shown what he is capable of is his hundred in the Gilbert's Cup final of 1968. Today he played a better century. He escaped a lightning bolt from being run out of the first ball of the match, when answering a bad call by Randall, he played, if anything, even better than in Melbourne. Last Saturday, when he was in the side only because of an injury to Miller.

Here are some of Boycott's strokes this afternoon: from down the pitch he lofted Walker for four over deep mid-on; on one occasion he took a touch down the covers and then bowled to Lillee to catch him, then down the covers for four; and again he was well down the pitch when he drove Border for four over extra cover. When, at one stage, Tony Greig went to sit with Kerr, Packer, Greig was presented with the disbelieving smile of the head.

Boycott should have been caught in the covers by Darling off Walker when he was 16. That was his only mistake until Lilles bowled him as he made to run him down to third man. So much



Boycott batting in Sydney yesterday: a man inspired.

was it Boycott's day that after the first of the drinks interval he went to the wicket where he struck six which should have been Randall's end. It was an accident, of course, and it was noticed. By then Chappell had gone, lost in the rush. Of the later batsmen the irrepressible Statham was the most successful, driving his one-day internationals into the covers and then bowled by the now-formous six into the Noble stand.

For the second successive one-day match Chappell felt unable to give Thomson his full 10 overs, though his first three were faster than late. The best of the Australian bowlers, by a long way, was Lillee. Miller's second over was a false analysis of all his wickets coming when the ball was being thrown. A brilliant running, tumbling catch by Hooke, fielding from the covers for Chappell at deep mid-on, off the last ball of the English innings, was small con-

solation for Australia. In taking it Hooke pulled a muscle badly enough not to have to be taken out of Friday's Test match in Perth. His place there has gone to Peter Polson, of New South Wales.

After Wiener and Darling had scored 32 together for Australia's first wicket in 11 overs, Australia managed somehow to lose five wickets for five runs in 42 overs on a perfect bating pitch. Darling was caught at square leg; Willey had Willey stuck down the wicket. Hooke was yorked. Hooke was caught at the wicket, trying to cut, and Chappell sent back by Willey, was run out by Gower racing in from cover point and throwing down the wicket. That was 39 for five. At 63, March played on to Darling.

Australia's surviving year launched by Walker. As popular as ever with the Sydney crowd, he gave them something to cheer until he was caught at the wicket, hooking at Bowler. Laughlin made his highest score: Lillee buffed and puffed for a while and Walker hung around. But it was a hopeless cause. The longer the Australian innings lasted the more the crowd cheered. In the end Randall first cleaved and then bowled and finally took the last Australian wicket. For the first time in these one-day internationals, incidentally, the last wicket to fall in the toss had chosen to bat. Though it was an overcast day Boarley knew his mind and Boycott and Randall were soon confirming him in it.

ENGLAND
D. W. Randall, run out
P. J. Walker, c. Walker, b. Chappell, 6
J. A. Gower, c. Walker, b. Lillee, 11
T. J. Statham, b. Walker, b. Lillee, 14
J. M. Sweary, not out w.c. 21

Total (7 wkt, 49 overs) 264
1st 100-2, 2nd 100-3, 3rd 100-4

BOWLING: Lillee 10-8-6-6
Thompson 8-0-3-1; Walker 10-0-4-1
Hooke 8-0-3-1; Bowler 10-0-4-1
Bowler 4-0-4-3; Chappell 6-0-3-1
Walker 4-0-4-3; Chappell 6-0-3-1

Total (47.2 overs) 192

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-33, 2-56
3-54, 4-57, 5-105, 6-115

BOWLING: Dilley 9-0-2-6
Boyd, 10-0-3-2; Gower 10-0-3-2
Wood 6-0-2-2; Gower 7-0-2-2
Sweary, 11-0-3-2; Gower 11-0-3-2

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THEATRES

CINEMAS

PHOENIX THEATRE S. 01-824 286 EYES OF FAITH 1.5 & 8.30 SUSAN MOWERS 1.5 & 2ND VERDANT NIGHT & DAY Directed by Peter Wood Evening Standard Drama Award	PICCADILLY (S) From 9 Jan 4.30 4.50 C. 10.30 1.07.1. Sat. 5.30 4.50 PETER BARBERIE 1.5 & HANNAH GORDON In Brian Clark's new play CAN YOU HEAR ME AT THE BACK? 1.5 & A WONDERFUL PERFORMANCE WITH WONDERFUL MUSIC AND EXTRAORDINARY DANCING PIECES OF ENTERTAINMENT PRINCE OF WALES 1.5 & 8.30 EVITA 1.5 & By THE RAY & ANTHONY JONES Webber Directed by David Webster PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE 1.50 8881. An evening with TOMMY STEELE The Sheik No Company BBC TV "SPECTACULAR" LONDON TUNNELS 1.5 & 8.30 MUSIC & DANCE 1.5 & 8.30 GOLDEN HORN 1.5 & 8.30 EVITA 1.5 & By THE RAY & ANTHONY JONES Webster Directed by David Webster PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE 1.50 8881. 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PARLIAMENT, December 11, 1979

Sanctions lifted with arrival of Lord Soames in Salisbury

House of Lords

Announcing that Lord Soames, Lord President of the Council and Governor of Zimbabwe Rhodesia, would be leaving for Rhodesia later in the day, Lord Carrington, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, in a statement, said that a British authority in Salisbury was necessary to make the final arrangements for bringing the ceasefire into effect.

Legality will be restored, and sanctions will be lifted, on Lord Soames' arrival (the said) and the acceptance of his authority.

Lord Carrington, in his statement, said: "We are approaching the conclusion of the Lancaster House conference, and it is clear that a British authority in Salisbury will be needed to exercise legislative and executive authority to supervise the elections and bring Rhodesia back to legality. There is agreement on our proposals for a ceasefire."

In the light of what has been agreed, it would be indecent to continue the war."

Identify we would have preferred the final details to be agreed before beginning to put the settlement into effect on the ground. But it is essential to implement the arrangement if we are to achieve a settlement involving all the parties, and if what we have achieved so far is not to be eroded by events outside the conference.

We believe that the proposals we have now forward, this afternoon should lead to early and complete agreement.

Lord Soames, who therefore arrived this afternoon for the implementation of our proposals for a ceasefire, will therefore leave later this afternoon for Salisbury. Lord Soames' arrival will help to stabilize the situation and normalize relations with neighbouring countries.

A British authority in Salisbury is essential for the final arrangements for bringing the ceasefire into effect. Legality will be restored and sanctions will be lifted with Lord Soames' arrival and the acceptance of his authority.

The Government will remain to the arrangements for elections. The Government is determined to carry out its responsibility to bring Rhodesia to legal independence at the earliest possible moment (Conservative cheers).

Ceasefire plans for separation of forces

After Lord Carrington had made his statement in the House of Lords, Lord Garvagh-Roberts, for the Opposition, said: "The House will be grateful for the statement which can only be described as momentous. The Government has made a decision which involves the new Governor in Zimbabwe Rhodesia before important details of the ceasefire have been agreed.

We are bound to express our deepest misgivings about this procedure. We have tried to be helpful in the negotiations, and the long drawn-out and difficult negotiations which Lord Carrington has conducted with great skill and perseverance. The Opposition said consistently that until there is a final and definite ceasefire, it would be a gamble to have a Governor out to that country.

Lord Carrington says, in his statement that legality will be restored and sanctions will be lifted with Lord Soames' arrival and the acceptance of his authority?

Lord Gladwyn (L)—It is a remarkable achievement on the part of Lord Carrington and his team of advisors to have got almost to the point at which there is final agreement on a ceasefire. This in itself represents a successful end to the long drawn-out negotiations which a few months ago, as I thought, would have had a happy ending.

The only point I would query is the decision to send our Lord Soames before a ceasefire had actually been signed. Would such momentum really be lost if Lord Soames had gone out to Rhodesia tomorrow or on Thursday, when it is confidently expected a ceasefire will be in the bag?

We note sanctions are to be lifted as soon as Lord Soames lands at Salisbury airport. They will also if seems only a little out of place, be lifted on his authority. If on the arrival of Lord Soames, the Patriotic Front has not by any chance finally signed the ceasefire, how will the Governor be able to practice it effectively?

Lord Carrington: It would be misleading if I said that for Lord Soames to go out at this moment is ideal. It would be better if all the final and loose ends had been tied up.

There are good reasons why he should go out. The momentum is extremely important. I have said many times here in the

Mr Callaghan voices serious reservations

House of Commons

The "serious reservations" of the Opposition about the decision to send Lord Soames to Salisbury today was expressed to Mrs Thatcher by Prime Minister's question time by Mr James Callaghan, Leader of the Opposition.

Mr Callaghan said: "I believe that the departure of Lord Soames is a matter of some importance. Is it the case that no assurance has been received from the parties concerned that they will put themselves under his control?"

If that is so, as I understand it, we have to instruct him to do so with the Foreign Secretary, (Lord Carrington)

(ton), or the Prime Minister, in a country for which he will be responsible for governing and which is an area, in the event of an outbreak of hostilities between the factions?

Mrs Thatcher—Yes, Lord Soames is leaving for Rhodesia a little later this afternoon. The Salisbury administration has agreed to accept the authority of the Governor, his executive and legislative authority.

The Patriotic Front have been informed that he is going. They have not yet accepted his authority but it is hoped they will do so within a few days. A document on the details of implementing the

ceasefire was laid before them at Lancaster House at 2pm yesterday. They have been given instructions to conduct a review of Lord Soames' orders any incursion into surrounding territories. That question could involve this country being obliged to respect the terms of the ceasefire agreement and prepare for the elections.

Mr Callaghan—We have serious reservations about the decision to send Lord Soames today. We can see the advantage of having the Governor in place at an early stage. We must, however, do so in a way which does not compromise the agreement.

Mr Callaghan—Yes. On the earlier part of the question, Mr Callaghan referred to what would happen if General Walls ordered an expedition beyond their borders. It is

As I tried to say earlier, the Salisbury administration accepts the Governor's authority.

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management
hospitals
own name for defamation?

Report December 11 1979

Queen's Bench Division

Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union
Newspapers Ltd and Another v Arcopay Shipping Co SA and Another

Mr Justice O'Connor

A hearing began of three main issues of law to be decided before the trial of an action for libel brought by the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union & Times Newspapers Ltd in respect of two articles published in Times on November 18, 1977, alleged to be defamatory of union members.

Agreed questions of law

Can a trade union (not being a registered body) maintain an action in its own name for defamation in relation to its members?

If the answer to question 1 is in the affirmative, is any action for defamation to sue a property or special damage caused by the union?

Is such a union able to maintain an action for damages in tort and, if so, one of the main issues is whether a trade union (without identifying particular members or members) can sue in its own name as a legal entity?

Section 2 of the Trade Union Labour Relations Act, 1974:

(1) A trade union is not a special registered body and may not be treated as such for the purposes of:

(a) it shall be capable of being contracted; (b) all proceedings relating to the trade union be vested in trustees in trust for the benefit of the members;

(c) subject to section 1(1), sue in its own name and bring proceedings in its own name;

whether in proceedings to property or tort or any other action whatsoever; (d) for any offence committed by the trade union or its members;

or on its behalf may be at against it in its own name; (e) any judgment or award made in proceedings for any description brought by the trade union or its members;

the consequences of which shall be enforceable, by way of execution, diligence, payment for contempt or otherwise;

against any property held for the trade union or its members;

or in the case of a trade union, the right to sue and be sued in its own name for libel and other torts on the basis that it was a legal entity, either a body corporate or a non-corporate, a quasi-corporate or certain quasi-corporate bodies.

As a result of the first question of law should be answered in the negative. That was the most important question in the case, and much turned on the provisions of the Trade Union Labour Relations Act, 1974. Section 2 was the crucial section. The issue was the meaning and effect of the words in sub-section (1) "A trade union which is not a special registered body shall not be treated as if it were a body corporate". These words made it clear that no legal personality was to be attributed to a trade union whether as a body corporate or as a mere corporation or quasi-corporation.

That had a special effect in the law of libel, where the personality of the plaintiff was crucial. It did not affect the right of trade unions to sue for other torts, but the words obviated the right of trade unions to sue in their own names as they had been regarded traditionally as quasi-corporate bodies.

As a result a union could no longer maintain an action for libel.

Before the 1974 Act it was well known that in the trade union could sue and be sued in its own name for libel and other torts on the basis that it was a legal entity, either a body corporate or a non-corporate, a quasi-corporate or certain quasi-corporate bodies.

What effect did the prohibition on trade unions being treated as if they were a body corporate have on the pre-existing position in which a trade union had been held able to maintain an action in its own name for defamation as a legal entity? It was submitted that since 1974, trade unions were no longer able to sue in that capacity.

Dealing with the situation before the Industrial Relations Act, 1974, Mr Lester said that the first statute which mattered historically was the Trade Union Act, 1921.

and practices at union conferences, the conduct of union elections, the maintenance of records, the treatment of particular members of the union who were not members of Mr. Chapple's court in the infighting between various groups within the trade union.

Where preliminary issues were decided in favour of all defendants, it was assumed that the assets which were in hands of the defendants must be sued against the defendants. The issues were issues of jurisdiction. Therefore it must be assumed that articles had been passed by the defendants, which were to be sued against the defendants.

Indeed, since there was an allegation of malice, it must be assumed that the defendants were also guilty of malice in the libel sense. However, was it the purpose of the preliminary issues, and if there were ever to be a trial on the merits, the defendants would strongly defend themselves from all the claims, even though they were not in the statement of claim.

Counsel read the articles complained of. They said that Mr. Chapple and his supporters could draw a distinction between the preliminary issues, and if there were ever to be a trial on the merits, the defendants would strongly defend themselves from all the claims, even though they were not in the statement of claim.

It was agreed that the articles complained of, "They said that Mr. Chapple and his supporters could draw a distinction between the preliminary issues, and if there were ever to be a trial on the merits, the defendants would strongly defend themselves from all the claims, even though they were not in the statement of claim."

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Mareva assets may be used for payment of business debts

Iraqi Ministry of Defence and Others v Arcopay Shipping Co SA and Another

Before Mr Justice Robert Goff

[Judgement delivered Nov 13]

A Mareva injunction was varied so as to enable the frozen assets to be used for making payments in good faith in the ordinary course of business.

A landmark grant in 1981 with Taff Vale Railway Co v Amalgamated Society of Railwaymen (1980) AC 426, in which

the court held that the Mareva injunction could be used in its own name because it had been given statutory powers and rights.

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the court held that the Mareva injunction could be used in its own name because it had been given statutory powers and rights.

In National Union of General and Municipal Workers v Gilligan (1982) 2 All ER 553, the Court of Appeal had to consider the reverse side of the coin from the Taff Vale case, namely whether the Mareva injunction could be used in the name of the interveners.

The court held that the Mareva injunction could be used in the name of the interveners.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the plaintiffs were the owners of cargo on the Anglo-Iranian oil tanker "Anglo" which had been seized by the defendants, Arcopay & Panamanian company.

In 1976 the vessel sank with the loss of 12 crew members.

The plaintiffs claimed £200,000 for the cost of salvaging the vessel and £200,000 for the proceeds of insurance on the vessel.

At that time Arcopay had no assets within the jurisdiction, but they did have the prospect of recovering the proceeds of insurance amounting to about £240,000. The brokers for the policies were Brands Marine, now Grindley Brands Marine.

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In 1968, 81 Americans from the spyship Pueblo were taken hostage... it took a year to free them

Will the fate of the US hostages follow the Korean pattern?

The case of the American hostages in Iran is providing the United States government with a partial rerun of a saga which temporarily gripped America 12 years ago when the North Koreans seized the intelligence ship Pueblo and her crew of 81.

They were taken hostage in January 1968 at the start of another presidential election year, when another Democratic president was being challenged for his party's nomination by another Senator Kennedy. It was 11 months before they were released; and then only after the United States had eaten a very humble diplomatic pie.

The similarities continue. The secretary of state called the seizure an "act of war"; there was pressure on the President to invade North Korea; America's allies fought the Vietnamese were geared up to give support. Gradually the uselessness of a military response in the circumstances—either to secure the release of the prisoners, or to punish the North Koreans for harming them—began to percolate through to American public opinion and the fate of the Pueblo's unfortunate crew soon left the front pages.

In December 1968, Captain Lloyd Bucher and his crew were finally released after the American government had apologized to North Korea for trespassing into their territorial waters. The apology was then declared by the Americans to be "worthless" because it was signed under duress.

This disclaimer was mostly ignored by a cynical world, though the South Koreans found it hard to ignore the fact that the United States had surrendered on all points.

In Washington there is now the sniff of another surrender of the Pueblo was its undoing, and the very serious intelligence breaches which have occurred as a result of the plundering of the United States embassy in Teheran have weakened Washington's hand to counter the clear breach of international law which the seizure involves.

When Captain Bucher returned home from captivity he confessed that he and his crew did not complete the destruction of sensitive electronic intelligence equipment, which was thus allowed to fall into enemy hands as an unpardonable offence in the intelligence world.

In Iran, the same kind of emergency drills were also incomplete. These matters have not yet been fully aired in a Washington still stunned by the magnitude of the breach, since under diplomatic protocol diplomats caught out in intelligence operations are normally declared persona non grata and sent home.

But Iranians have shown that they are not playing diplomacy by the accepted rules, but by their unprincipled seizure of the embassy in the first place. Thus the forthcoming trial of diplomats accused of spying is likely to have all the evidence it

needs to convince a rigged court, and a prejudiced world audience, that the men deserve to be convicted.

It is this which causes apprehension in Washington and arouses a certain amount of mixed feelings towards the hostages. On the one hand, everybody sympathises with the terrible ordeal they are going through, and is vigilant for any signs of maltreatment such as was inflicted on the crew of the Pueblo.

On the other hand the State Department has been appalled by the failure to destroy sensitive files which reveal planning of covert operations in Iran. Why was the emergency drill not followed before the mob stormed into the embassy?

American diplomats in Islamabad successfully destroyed their sensitive material in half the time and with no warning. Yet in Teheran some of the embassy correspondence reveals that the embassy was only too aware beforehand of the danger it would be in should the Shah be admitted to the United States.

As one senior State Department official said: "My heart went cold when I saw a 'Roger' telegram published in the *Washington Post*—'Roger' being the code prefix for all intelligence matters during from the time when Mr Roger Hilsman was in charge of state department intelligence operations."

The vulnerability of the American position caused by this breach of security, must be exercising great if unexpressed

The only thing which could

really spoil the intended exercise in quiet diplomacy is if any of the hostages are harmed—let alone killed as a result of a trial. Every available source in Washington last week said that, in those circumstances, the President had no alternative but to strike back with force, however damaging that might be to the United States long term interests.

It would be politically impossible not to do though such a reaction would be just what the Ayatollah Khomeini, the Russians, and all America's other primitive enemies in the Muslim world (and beyond) would want to happen to compensate for the fact that, if left to himself, the Ayatollah's hold on Iran will always become increasingly insecure.

This concern for the hostages may derive from the basic humanity of the President and the society he leads. It may be sound politics; but it is not secret strategy. The grand strategy of the United States, indeed the strategy of the West as a whole, can only suffer by being too closely tied to the fate of any hostage or hostages.

At some stage the civilized world will have to take the dreadful step and make it clear, not once, nor twice, but every time, that its policy options in a crisis are not determined by the need to pay ransom of any kind. The side which bends the rules of international behaviour has to be shown that it does not, through bending them, gain the strategic initiative over

its adversary, only the tactical one. Thus nobody can even now prevent the Iranians from killing a hostage, but the United States must try to make it clear that, should the Iranians do so, they cannot provoke the United States into a damaging retaliation and so will be nearer their own objectives.

This would be a difficult enough exercise in strategic education, even in a non-electoral year. So the word from within the State Department is that an accommodation can be reached. Indeed, if only the Iranian foreign minister had bothered to attend the Security Council debate he would have learned in the corridor that the United States Government is not hostile to the idea of an international commission of inquiry into the Shah's finances, to which the present revolutionary regime could bring its complaints.

In Washington it is recognized that such a process is likely to be very dangerous, not least to the Shah, but to the whole of the western world, where the Shah's finances seem to have an epidemic quality which has infected most major financial establishments.

In propaganda terms such an inquiry would point an accusing finger at every citadel of capitalism. Yet the United States may have come to believe that it would be a lesser evil than any of the other choices facing the President.

Charles Douglas-Home

The Navy should be fair to the Osprey

Today naval design is at a turning point, as it was in the early 1900s: when the Dreadnought sprang from the great improvements in hull design, construction, propulsion and naval gunnery occurring in the context of our world-spanning Empire and the Kaiser's warship building programme.

In the Dreadnought and the generation of naval designs which followed, length was the greatest factor of hull design. Ev the traditional discipline of naval architecture the maximum practical speed of a ship, on average 3 times the square root of its length, was gained by length which in turn reduced a ship's tendency to pitch in a head sea and therefore a higher speed could be maintained in a given sea state and with greater comfort.

The power of armament was a function of its weight and therefore the longer the ship the greater its armament could be; finally, length provided economies of scale in a world in which both materials and labour were cheap and plentiful and in the longer ships it was possible to carry the crew, stores, fuel and ammunition necessary to defend the far-flung sea routes of the Empire. Hence the day of the long ship: the "Ocean Greyhounds" beloved of generations of sailors.

Today many things have changed. The development of the guided missile means that the fire power of a ship is not a function of its size, but of the technology it carries. Furthermore, the cost of a ship of traditional length such as a frigate has risen by a factor of ten, to about £100m, in as many years. Half of this is the cost of the hull; yet it is not even necessary to sink such a ship, but simply to sink it by hitting a bomb or a missile to render it about as useless as a Delek with a flat battery.

Thus, thanks to technology, inflation and the course of history, three arguments for traditional long ships have disappeared: namely, their fire power, their comparative economy in relation to crew and cost, and the need for world-wide endurance.

But the sea does not change;

and there is still the same need for speed in rough seas consistent with good seakeeping and crew comfort. The navy must still "set there in time", with crews ready and able to execute their demanding tasks in wartime in the appalling conditions of the Northern Approaches, the Denmark Strait or the North Sea.

So, how can we design ships which, without being long and expensive, are still fast and comfortable at sea?

For years designers have tried to break through this barrier. A whole generation of fast patrol boats (FPBs) based on the German "E" boat of World War II has been broken through a speed barrier of 13.5kts; but they depend for their speed on being of very light displacement and narrow beam and the makes them uncomfortable and unsatisfactory in any more than a moderate sea; and limits them severely as to useful load, internal and deck space and endurance. Numerous other

ideas, such as hydrofoils, catamarans and sea sleds have been spawned, but these only evade the real issues of ship design and the implacable demands of the sea.

The Osprey arose from our fascination by this apparent impasse. With characteristic style, Mr Peter Thorneycroft, the small ship designer, had partly broached the problem in his earlier 112ft Azteca design for the Mexican Government—in which the requirements were typical of those coming from the ever-growing world market for patrol boats for the newly-declared 200-mile limits of countries with budgets as small as their coastlines are long. This dictates the greatest possible number of ships, as fast as practicable to cover the great distances involved, consistent with seaworthiness and load-carrying capacity and obtainable at the lowest possible price.

In this case he threw the rule book overboard, risking a drastic increase in beam which might have ruled out the advantage of any increase in internal volume or economy of construction by reduced performance. In fact this increase in beam actually seemed to improve performance and seaworthy.

Having overcome the traditional objections to an increase in beam, Mr Thorneycroft set about increasing the stability of the new 165ft Osprey to carry much greater loads on such a hull, but without drastic loss of speed for a given horsepower compared with the FPB type of hull and without sacrifice of stability.

The result of these measures is that the Osprey can carry about twice the load of her FPB counterparts but without any drastic reduction in speed for a given horsepower. This means she can be built in a relatively cheap, heavy and primitive way, if required, and still can carry about 300 tons total fuel, water, furnishings, armament and stores—an impressive ability for a 165ft "fast hull".

Her beam provides huge internal volume for her size and a deck which is sufficiently wide for any amount of equipment and armament, and—if

one listens to the Westland engineers—plenty of space for a helicopter.

So the speed and displacement barriers are breached—but at what cost in terms of seaweeping and comfort, and by what criterion of judgment?

This is the key question of the navy and rightly so. Fortunately for us, the navy has developed a technique for judging the seakeeping qualities of ships, an American paper by Lloyd and Andrew of the Admiralty Marine Technical Establishment at Haslar. This paper reduces the ship motions affecting seakeeping, seaweeting and fatigue to a "subjective motion magnitude", or yardstick.

Over the past two years the Ministry of Defence, in cooperation with the British Hovercraft testing tank in Cowes, have spent much time and money on a fascinating technique for evaluating hull designs using one-centre self-propelled radio controlled models fitted with motion recording equipment and operated in scale model tanks or in a series of waves of water. The quick roll period of a hovercraft is simply the result of exceedingly heavy

displacement, some five times the weight of the usual engine for such a vessel.

This fact, working on the already considerable reserves of stability and without any substantial increase in weight, does give her a quick roll period similar to an unladen offshore supply boat. However, even the RN trials team were prepared to admit that her pitching characteristics were less than they might have expected and this is the factor to which the navy have always attached greatest significance.

It is, perhaps, one of the great virtues of this country's Government and the service as often resistant to new ideas and changes in design. It means that small private designers with wild ideas which could waste great sums of public money, if given the, the encouragement they would like, are forced to argue and prove their case with great determination and only the best ideas finally win through.

However we may know that the Navy and Ship Department following a long R&D programme and with the co-operation of British Shipbuilders and Defence Sole, have started a worldwide campaign against the Osprey which seems rather draconian.

Alongside these MoD tests, similar tests have been undertaken on a one-tenth model Osprey and, only last week, BHC were good enough to tell us how the Osprey stood up to the Lloyd and Andrew's yardstick.

We know that the RN trials team who went to see in the Hovercraft were critical of her motion, but it should be emphasised that this was only in relation to roll and the navy have always claimed that rolling is a minor consideration that can be compensated by use of stabilisers, ballast, trim tabs or redistribution of weight. The quick roll period of the Osprey is simply the result of exceeding heavy

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It is, perhaps, one of the great virtues of this country's Government and the service as often resistant to new ideas and changes in design. It means that small private designers with wild ideas which could waste great sums of public money, if given the, the encouragement they would like, are forced to argue and prove their case with great determination and only the best ideas finally win through.

However we may know that the Navy and Ship Department following a long R&D programme and with the co-operation of British Shipbuilders and Defence Sole, have started a worldwide campaign against the Osprey which seems rather draconian.

Alongside these MoD tests, similar tests have been undertaken on a one-tenth model Osprey and, only last week, BHC were good enough to tell us how the Osprey stood up to the Lloyd and Andrew's yardstick.

We know that the RN trials team who went to see in the Hovercraft were critical of her motion, but it should be emphasised that this was only in relation to roll and the navy have always claimed that rolling is a minor consideration that can be compensated by use of stabilisers, ballast, trim tabs or redistribution of weight. The quick roll period of the Osprey is simply the result of exceeding heavy

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A POSSESSION NOT A PROMISE

The gold price is remarkable historically for its long term stability and recently for its short term instability. Every schoolboy knows that the gold meant gave the Byzantine empire, that ramshackle relic to which Gibson devoted his later and less read volumes, 800 years of stable prices. It is interesting to note that the average earnings of an English worker in 1900 came to half an ounce of gold a week and that in 1979 after two world wars, a world slump and a world inflation, the British worker has average earnings of half an ounce of gold a week, so much for the power of the trade unions. Professor Roy Jastram of the University of California has calculated, on an index with 1930 as 100, that the purchasing power of gold in England was 124.8 in 1900 and 129.2 in 1970. In contrast to these centuries of stability, the gold price in recent years has moved about in a breathtaking way, yesterday reaching a new peak of \$4474 an ounce.

The purchasing power of gold is at present high by historic standards. At any rate that is true in terms of the majority of commodities. However, the purchasing power of gold is not exceptional if measured in terms of labour cost or in terms of the price of oil. The recent movements of the gold price suggest that gold and oil prices have become closely linked at somewhere between seventeen and nineteen barrels of oil to the ounce of gold. The present gold price movement seems to anticipate a further rise in the price of oil.

Twelve-fold rise

It is not surprising that the gold price should respond to the oil price because both are commodities in limited supply. Gold, like oil, has probably passed the peak of its world production though, unlike oil, it is a virtually indestructible commodity of which much the greater part that has ever been mined still survives. There is only a fixed amount of gold in the world potentially available to be exchanged for oil; there is a potentially unlimited supply of currencies, and their value in terms of gold or oil has, in most cases rapidly declined.

Since 1968 the price of gold in terms of dollars has risen by more than twelve times. At least that is one way of looking at it. Another way of looking at it is to say that the value of the dollar in terms of gold has fallen by more than 50 per cent in less than twelve years. At the beginning of 1968 gold played only a minor part in the reserves of the central banks. As a result

CAUTIOUS LIBERALIZATION IN BRAZIL

Brazil has changed but not all recognition in the past few years. It is remarkable, in a country which has been under military rule for fifteen years, which was in many ways a pace-setter for other South American regimes of a similar sort, and which only recently had a reputation for particularly brutal repression, to have the President himself a general physically attacked by an angry crowd and say afterwards: "This disturbance proves that there is really democracy in Brazil". It may not be everyone's idea of democracy, but it does show that there have been changes. In Brazil today strikes are tolerated, exiles of many years have been allowed to return, and new political parties are being formed, even though the legal requirements are making it difficult.

The rioting in Santa Catarina, where President Joao Baptista Figueiredo was given the occasion for that remark, was a sign that everything is far from well in the Brazilian economy. Inflation has been rising over the past year, and it is expected that it will soon reach 75 per cent. There are many millions of Brazilians who gained little or nothing from the "economic

miracle" of a few years ago, and they are beginning to make their protests heard. A recent blow has been an increase of some 58 per cent in the price of oil, made necessary by Brazil's dependence on imported oil. It was followed by the decision made at the end of last week to devalue the cruzeiro by 30 per cent, which will also have inflationary effects, though it should help Brazilian exports. So the Brazilian regime is faced with a potentially explosive situation, and it is clear that it is keeping a close watch on it as it pursues its policy of gradual liberalization in the political field.

The policy began under General Geisel, President Figueiredo's predecessor, but has only really gained momentum since President Figueiredo took over earlier this year. It is carefully thought out, with the aim of allowing a certain amount of protest, and letting off steam, but without enabling any serious threat to develop to the regime. It also requires skilful handling, because a hasty way has to be steered between demands for greater liberalization and pressure from hardliners in the armed forces, all too

eager to clamp down again if things seem to be getting out of hand. There seems no doubt that President Figueiredo and many of his closest advisers believe that there is no way back to the repressive policies of the past, because it would simply not be possible to contain the wave of protest which would result. But the going is beginning to get rough now, and Brazil is not being helped by international developments such as the rise in the price of oil.

Since it was first installed in 1964, the Brazilian military regime has achieved a great deal in building up the country so that it is now an important presence on the world scene. It has begun some imaginative programmes like the use of alcohol from sugar cane for fuel. But it has not solved the basic problem of how to distribute earnings more evenly to the whole population, and that is at the root of the current protests. It is therefore important that liberalization should continue further, so that other voices are heard in the decision-making process and that eventually the possibility of a transfer of power, to a coherent opposition, should be admitted.

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Whatever else divides them, Gai Eaton and J. P. D. Bolton, from whose books Lenin quotes, are united in seeing freedom as grounded in a natural law to which all men, rulers and ruled alike, owe their allegiance. This idea of natural law is not reducible to human behaviour as measured by scientific enquiry but looks instead to human ends and purposes which transcend our immediate psycho-physical cravings.

In Montesquieu's words, freedom "can consist only in the power of doing what we ought to will, and in not being constrained to do what we ought not to will". We are free in so far as we act out our lives in accord with the ends appropriate to our nature. No more than a man, a man is not free when he is off the rails. He is

denied that possibility of all personal autonomy which dismisses man's freedom as at best a chaotic hu-

man space extra rights, please

now among professors as well as

Lord Soames in Salisbury

From Lord Soames

Sir, I remember the story I heard years ago in Nigeria about the Governor's visit to a remote Nigerian town. The banners were out to welcome him. The first said God save the Queen. Farther along, the second said God bless the Governor. Farther on, the third said God help the District Officer.

Now in Rhodesia, if they hang out the banners to welcome Lord Soames, they might well be:

God save the Queen

God bless the Foreign Minister

God help the Chancellor

I suggest that there are too many wise men filling the world about the obvious dangers. I trust that there are far more ordinary people wishing the Governor well and praying for his success in the interests of everyone, all Africa most of all.

There are plenty of timid commentators telling us of the risks. No one disputes that they are indeed dreadful, but no risk, I feel sure, would have been greater than the risk of doing nothing.

We have for a long time had to put up with lack of bold initiative in international affairs—but the Middle East and Cyprus, for instance, we may say, that the Commonwealth and British Initiative in Rhodesia will not only itself in the end succeed, but will also encourage brave endeavours to escape from dangers and disasters elsewhere.

Yours faithfully,

HUGH CARADON,
House of Lords.
December 11.

From Mr B. W. Budd, QC

Sir, it is greatly to be hoped that there will be no attempt to force through the changes in Zimbabwe-Rhodesia according to a rigid timetable, thereby losing the last lessons of history. The last stage of colony brought to a dead end by its own internal conflict involving

the津巴布韦人. At the bargaining

stage, the津巴布韦人

had declined and power shifted

to the津巴布韦人. The trade union

establishment has retaliated by

concentrating its declining power

over industrial production and its

direct power over the Labour Party

to entrench and enhance its position.

And in its struggle for power

over members, the ultimate solution

is the closed shop.

The closed shop is an unification

of customer and management.

The津巴布韦人

have been forced to give up their

independence and to submit to

the津巴布韦人.

Yours faithfully,

JAN HILDRETH,
50 Ridgway Place,
Wimbledon, SW19.

December 10.

Fees to overseas students

From Professor Max Beloff FBA

Sir, in his letter on overseas student fees (December, November 27) the vice-Chancellor of Southampton University wrote of "the steady decline in the capacity of the University Grants Committee to serve as a cushion between the Government and the universities".

It is at least 12 years since I pointed

out in an article in *Mincis* that

while the UGC system worked well

when central government grants

were only minimal to university

finance, this would no longer be the

case when the universities were be-

coming wholly dependent on them,

and when they represented an im-

portant element in public expendi-

titure. This view was radicalised by

the university establishment in the

person of Lord Ashby and a couple

of years ago, Sir Frederick Dainton

(then chairman of the UGC) assured

international audience that in

British public finance and universi-

ty autonomy had been success-

fully and permanently combined.

When the planning board for an

independent university was set up

in the late sixties, it was clear that

it was necessary to experiment with

alternative methods of university

finance, but the universities at large

continued to behave as though they

could count on ever-increasing

resources from central funds.

Ironically, the members of the board

were always being asked whether

accepting private funds would not

disturb the balance of the university

budget.

Mr Roberts laments the lack of

dialogue between the universities

and successive governments. While

we also got no hearing in the

Shirley Williams era, we find the

present ministers accessible and

understanding. Perhaps the vice-

chancellors would get a better re-

ception if they could convince the

Government that they share its

overriding concern for the economic

health of the country and for

reform of the educational system,

putting the accent on quality. To

borrow a favourite phrase of the

Prime Minister's, if the universi-

ties want dismung, let them first

"put their house in order".

Yours truly,

MAX BELOFF,

The University College

at Buckingham,

Buckinghamshire,

December 11.

Labour Party objectives

From Mr John Lee

Sir, Bryan Magee (December 8), a thoughtful and serious-minded MP, and others who think like him seem entirely to forget just why the Labour Party came to be a government party. This happened basically for two reasons: firstly because in the years before the turn of the century, the Liberal Party ignored the political aspirations of working class people. Secondly, because the Labour Party, despite the undoubtedly radicalism that is manifested in its aims, shrank in power from the scale of government intervention in the economy (necessarily including much nationalisation) without which real, and permanent, social justice is not possible.

Since 1918 the Labour Party has been unambiguously committed to public ownership; and anyone joining it since then must be presumed to know this. There may, and indeed certainly should, be arguments within the party about the correct speed at which this can be done. There can be no doubt about the objectives, since that argument was settled long ago.

Yours etc,

JOHN LEE,

75 Palewell Park, SW14.

December 8.

The last goodbye

From Group Captain R. B. Ward

Sir, With regard to Mr Mansbridge's letter, in yesterday's *Times* (December 4), we have a card which has

been going backwards and forwards

between us and great friends, since

1957. It has been to Peru, Rangoon,

Moscow, Cuba twice, and is now

between Fairlight and Odham, but

the postage now costs a good deal

more than the original card did.

Yours faithfully,

R. B. WARD,

Stoneywood Farm,

Fairlight,

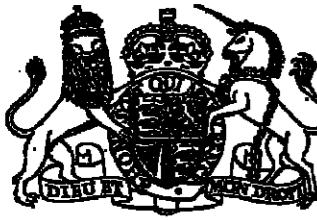
Hastings,

East Sussex.

December 10.

No change

From Mr John Witt



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 11: Mr R. J. Laingbridge was received in audience by The Queen and kissed hands upon his appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Antananarivo.

Mr Laingbridge had the honour of being received by The Queen. His Excellency Sir Robert Davies, Permanent Secretary, was received in farewell audience by Her Majesty and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the post of Italy to the Court of St James's.

The Queen gave a luncheon for The President of the Republic of Liberia and Mrs Tolbert at which The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, was present.

The following had the honour of being invited: the Hon Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf (Minister of Finance), the Hon D. Franklin Neal (Minister of Planning and Economic Affairs), the Hon John McClain (Acting Minister of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism), the Hon Charles A. Clarke (Minister of State without portfolio in the Cabinet Committee on Africa), Mrs Dennis (Wife of the Minister of Foreign Affairs), the Hon A. Tolbert (Chairman, Foreign Affairs Committee, House of Representatives), the Hon T. S. S. Sheppard (Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs). His Excellency the Liberian Ambassador and Mrs Dennis, the Lord Privy Seal and the Lady Caroline Gomont, Lady General John and Lady Steel, Sir David and Lady Steel, J. G. Doubley, Dr and Mrs Kenneth MacKenzie, Dr and Mrs Adam Thomson, Dr and Mrs W. M. S. West and Mr and Mrs E. W. V. Smith.

A Guard of Honour was provided by The Queen's Guard, provided by the 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards, with The Queen's Colour.

Birthdays today

Sir Kenneth Blackburne, 72; Major-General Sir Robert Bruce, 70; Air Commodore Dame Felicity Hill, 64; Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Lloyd, 85; Mr John Osborne, 50; Mr Frank Sienna, 64; General Sir Norman Tallyour, 65; Lieutenant-General Sir William Turner, 72.

Appeal fund to mark former Dean of York

It is proposed to provide a new sanctuary in the Lady Chapel of York Minster as a memorial to Dr Alan Richardson, Dean of York from 1954 to 1975.

He dedicated his life to York, where he devoted himself to raising funds for the Minster's restoration, Dr Richardson had been Professor of Christian Theology at the University of York from 1946 to 1954.

A appeal fund with a £5,000 target has been opened. The sponsors include the Archbishops of York and Canterbury; Lord Halifax, High Steward of York Minster; Lord Normanby; Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire; and the Lord Mayor of York.

Contributions may be sent to the Dean Richardson Memorial Appeal, Barclays Bank, Paragon Street, York YO1 1XD.

Reception

Chicago University Alumni Association

Mr Robert O. Anderson was the guest of honour at a reception given yesterday by the Chicago University Alumni Association at its Royal Commonwealth Society.

Also attending were members of the Franco-British Society, and the executive committee gave a luncheon party for representatives of the branches and affiliated societies at the Basil Street hotel yesterday.

Building Materials Export Group

Lord George-Brown was the principal speaker at the annual reception of the Building Materials Export Group held at the Savoy Hotel yesterday. Mr Robert Taylor, MP, chairman presided and the guests included the Korean Ambassador, Dr Pyo-Wook Han, the Earl of Dartmouth, Mr John Stokes, MP, M. G. S. Kidd and Mr Richard Heron.

Exhibitions

Ingres Drawings, v and A Museum, Cromwell Road, 10-5.30; Michael Werner, Amely India Fine Art, 11-12.30; Sainsbury's, 39 Paddington Street, 10-30; Sir Rowland Hill National Postal Museum, chief post office, King Edward Street, 10-30.

Talk: Heston airport centre of information 1929-1978, by Colin Marion, Museum of London, 1.10.

Lunchtime music: Bow String Quartet, St James's church, Garlick Hill, 1.15; Petronella Dittmar, piano; Martin and Andrew Bell, piano; St Martin-within-Ludgate, 1.15 pm.

Family Carol Concert with Plymouth Cleonian male voice choir, the Reynold Singers and Buriton school band, Sherwell United Reformed Church, Plymouth, 7.30.

National Cactus and Succulent Society, slides, camera club headquarters, Well Lane, Steep Hill, Lincoln.

Memorial services: Sir Norman Kipping, 100, St George's, St Paul's Cathedral, 11.30 am; Mr C. U. Peat, St Lawrence Jewry-Coxwell Guildhall, 12.15 pm.

Requies: Major-General C. M. Dyer, Westminster Cathedral, 11.30 am.

5 years ago

re: The Times of Monday, Dec 3, 1974

Imprisoned airmen

In Hammarskjöld's request to ask for personal discussions with the United States, an American is a bold move which will be the support of the free world.

For President Eisenhower's firm and against any unilateral American action, the present proposal is a vote in the General Assembly.

On supporting his own countrymen, the United States, the symbol and identification of an organization which not only excludes communists from its membership but which at present recognizes the nationalists on Formosa as the legitimate rulers of China.

As the imprisonment of the American men has already begun in a flexible western policy in the East. Whether or not they are released will be widely taken as a test of whether any genuine tests with Communist China is possible.

Eleven American airmen were

prisoned as spies by China.

and accompanied by the Band of the Regiment and the Corps of Drums of the Battalion, under the command of Major Edward Windsor-Gilve, was mounted in the Quadrangle.

The General Officer Commanding London District (Major-General Desmond Langley) and the Field Officer in Brigade Waiting (Colonel Samuel Gauvin, Welsh Guards) were present.

The Queen invested The President of the Republic of Liberia with the insignia of a Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George and The President presented to Her Majesty the Grand Collar of the Most Venerable Order of Knighthood of the Pioneers of the Republic of Liberia and Mr John Williams-Wynne, of Peniarth, Tywyn, Wales.

Mr A. W. P. Comber
Miss C. J. Biles

The engagement is announced between Derek, son of Mr H. Heard and Mrs G. Stratton, of Tring, Hertfordshire, and Miranda, daughter of Mr and Mrs N. S. S. and Mrs M. S. of Pensford, Somerset.

The Prince of Wales visited T.I. Rail Industries Ltd, Lenton Boulevard, Nottingham this evening. His Royal Highness' son attended a Banquet given by the Lord Mayor and City Council of Nottingham at Langton Green, Kent.

Mr A. E. P. McNaught
Miss M. C. Schiff

The engagement is announced between Anthony, son of Mr and Mrs E. A. S. C. Comber, of Hong Kong, and Caroline, younger daughter of the late Mr D. J. Siles and Mrs M. S. of Pensford, Somerset.

The Prince of Wales attended by Mr Oliver Everett, travelled to the Royal Train.

The Lady Rose Baring has succeeded her sister Susanna Baring as Lady in Waiting to The Queen. KENSINGTON PALACE

December 11: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, Air Chief Commander of The Women's Royal Air Force and Queen of the Royal Order of Airwoman at the Ministry of Defence, Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism, the Hon Charles A. Clarke (Minister of State without portfolio in the Cabinet Committee on Africa), Mrs Dennis (Wife of the Minister of Foreign Affairs), the Hon A. Tolbert (Chairman, Foreign Affairs Committee, House of Representatives), the Hon T. S. S. Sheppard (Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs). His Excellency the Liberian Ambassador and Mrs Dennis, the Lord Privy Seal and the Lady Caroline Gomont, Lady General John and Lady Steel, Sir David and Lady Steel, J. G. Doubley, Dr and Mrs Kenneth MacKenzie, Dr and Mrs Adam Thomson, Dr and Mrs W. M. S. West and Mr and Mrs E. W. V. Smith.

A memorial service for Mr Charles Peat will be held today, Wednesday December 12, at 12.15 pm, at St Lawrence Jewry next Guildhall, London, EC2.

BIRTHDAYS

Sir Kenneth Blackburne, 72; Major-General Sir Robert Bruce, 70; Air Commodore Dame Felicity Hill, 64; Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Lloyd, 85; Mr John Osborne, 50; Mr Frank Sienna, 64; General Sir Norman Tallyour, 65; Lieutenant-General Sir William Turner, 72.

Luncheons

Lord Greenwich of Harrow and Lord Campbell of Harrow entertained members of the Kendal and Cumbria Chamber of Commerce at a luncheon at the House of Lords yesterday.

Law Society

Mr John Stubbings, President of the Law Society, was host at a luncheon held yesterday at 60 Carey Street. Among those present were Lord Greenwich, Sir Percival O.C. MP, Sir James Stables, Sir Desmond Wilson, Mr Peter Goss, Mr Warwick, Mr John L. Bowes (secretary-general).

France-British Society

The Marquess of Lansdowne,

chairman of the Franco-British Society, and the executive committee gave a luncheon party for

representatives of the branches and affiliated societies at the Basil Street hotel yesterday.

Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators

The President of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators, Mr Dennis H. Roberts, and the council of the institute were host last night at a dinner given in honour of Latin American Ambassadors. The other guests included:

Vicente Eccles, Viceminister of Finance of Chile; Luis Fernando Salas, Minister of Finance of Chile; Mr Alfonso Moreno, and representatives of the civil service and business community and cultural committees with Latin American Ambassadors and the Latin American trade advisory group at Canning House.

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Joint winners of police staff college award

By Geraldine Norman
Salis Room Correspondent

A record of rural life in Anglo-Saxon times, the farm account of Sir Abbot, written in the late 10th century, was sold at Sotheby's yesterday for £22,000 (£15,000-20,000).

It was sent for sale by Queen Elizabeth II, who had given it to Sir Kenneth Clark, Director of the British Museum, and described the goods supplied to Thorney Abbey by Elie Abey.

At some time, probably in the sixteenth century, the manuscript was cut into three strips. Two strips were sold in 1960 (£20,000) and the third strip, which Christie's consider to be the finest collection of English drawings and watercolours, which Christie's are offering for sale tomorrow and on Friday. The collection was formed by Norman D. Newall, of Newborough, Isle of Man.

Newall collection: This watercolour view of "Lancaster" by William Calow is from the collection of English drawings and watercolours

which Christie's are offering for sale tomorrow and on Friday. The collection was formed by Norman D. Newall, of Newborough, Isle of Man.

Northumberland, mainly in the 1930s and 1940s.

Christie's consider it the finest collection of

watercolours to come up for auction since the

Second World War. The 250 works include such

famous names as Turner, Girtin, Bonington, Corcoran and Cotman.

Anglo-Saxon manuscript trebles estimate at £52,000

By Geraldine Norman
Salis Room Correspondent

The annual prize day was held at the Police Staff College, Bransill yesterday, when Professor James Fawcett, Professor of International Relations, University of London, and President of the European Commission of Human Rights, addressed the college on "Human rights" and presented the prizes to the special constables.

In the absence of an invited audience of governors, chief officers and distinguished academics, the Association of Chief Police Officers' silver trophy for the students considered the most outstanding in their studies was awarded to Second Constable Ian S. Thompson, of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, and described as having received a silver trophy for the students considered the most outstanding in their studies.

The sale of Western manuscripts and miniatures realised £26,170, with every lot finding a buyer. Master Eliza, a Dutch dealer, paid £1,000 for a semi-circular banner of the Earl of Warwick.

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which Christie's are offering for sale tomorrow and on Friday. The collection was formed by Norman D. Newall, of Newborough, Isle of Man.

Northumberland, mainly in the 1930s and 1940s.

Christie's consider it the finest collection of

watercolours to come up for auction since the

Second World War. The 250 works include such

famous names as Turner, Girtin, Bonington, Corcoran and Cotman.

Science report

By Our Medical Correspondent

When a patient is given a transplant, his body's normal response is to treat the graft as if it were a dangerous invading microorganism.

The immune system is made of

white blood cells, and

if nothing is done to stop the response the transplant organ is destroyed.

This process of rejection can be prevented by treatment with drugs known as immunosuppressives;

but unfortunately, like all powerful drugs they also have potent side-effects.

By interfering with the normal action of the body's immune system they are able to reduce the risk of developing some forms of cancer.

Thus last year, cancer caused by treatment with immunosuppressive drugs is working to doctors and

patients alike, and in 1970 a

number of collaborative studies set

up to attempt to quantify the risk.

Transplant units in the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand

Patients were also included in the

study if they were treated with immunosuppressive drugs for other disorders, for example in several autoimmune diseases such as systemic lupus erythematosus. In all, 3,825 patients given kidney transplants and 1,348 patients with other disorders were included in the study.

Clearly, however, the surveillance of these patients will have to be continued for as long as possible; and another valuable contribution to the field of transplant research is given by the relative risks attributable to different drugs in use.

Source: *British Medical Journal*, December 8, (page 1461).

Latest wills

There, Mr Arthur Whiteman Frank, of Ben, Dorset, left £59,551 net.

He bequeathed £12,500 to personal legatees and the residue to Beaminster Congregational church.

Other estates include (not before tax paid, less tax disclosed):

Garrison, Mr Edward J. Garrison, £1,000.

Gloucester, Mr Edward J. Garrison, £1,000.

Hampshire, Mr Edward J. Garrison, £1,000.

Hampshire,

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Bryant
BUILD
Tel. 021 704 5111

■ Stock markets
FT Ind 422.3 up 3.7 FT Gilts 54.79 up 0.79
■ Sterling
\$2.1895 up 7.225 cents Index 69.1 up 0.3
■ Dollar
Index 84.8 down 0.3
■ Gold
\$447.25 an ounce up \$15.75
■ 3-month money
Interbank 169 to 169 Euro 142 to 142

IN BRIEF

3-tier market now being considered

Proposals for a three-tier stock market were considered by the Stock Exchange Committee yesterday. It was part of a general House of Commons inquiry into the Stock Exchange's Rule 63(2) prepared for the council by a committee headed by Mr Charles Eglington, a partner of Droyd & Smethers, the stockbrokers.

Details of the recommendations by the committee are expected to be published by the Stock Exchange today.

One suggestion is that the three tiers envisaged could be very large companies (possibly the top 200 in terms of marketability); all other publicly quoted companies; and third "over-the-counter" tier or companies who are presently traded by dealers under rule 163 or alternatively under the over-the-counter market run by D. J. H. Nightingale & Co, the investment bankers.

5.5m China deal

Babcock Product Engineering at Crawley, Sussex, has won a 5.5m contract from China for the supply of coal pulverising mills, equipment and technology. The main components will be made and assembled at the Babcock Renfrew plant, now before Parliament, and delivered to China's medium-sized companies, and wants further discussions of its role as a "stimulator" of investment in industry.

The guidelines substantially curtail the NEB's scope of operations in line with the provisions of the Industry Bill now before Parliament, and lay greater emphasis on disposal of shareholdings.

Sir Keith has defined the extent of the board's "consolidation" investment role, which will be restricted to companies in which the board already has an interest, or to those engaged in the development of advanced technologies. The board will also be able to help investment in companies in the essential areas of England, and may help small firms in areas of high unemployment.

On investments, the guidelines state: "Before acquiring securities or making loans, the board shall satisfy themselves that the requirements of the disposal of companies.

In appropriate cases the board will be required to consult with the Director General of Fair Trading, and will maintain effective relationships with the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland Development Agencies. Last night the NEB said that the new board would be studying the draft guidelines, and would probably comment after meeting on December 21.

Aluminium stocks fall
World aluminium stocks, including primary and secondary metal, finished products and scrap, fell to 3.4 million tonnes at the end of October compared with 4.1 million tonnes a year earlier. The International Primary Aluminium Institute said that its metal inventory had fallen to 1.5 million tonnes at the end of October against 2.1 million tonnes a year ago.

Bid for trucks plant fails

Mr David Brown, the Yorkshire businessman who wants to buy BL Vehicles, had his hopes dashed yesterday when the company's senior executives told him they had no intention of selling. Mr Brown, managing director of DIB Engineering, of Peterlee, Co Durham, said that despite rejection of his proposal the meeting had been worthwhile. "It may be that at the end of the matter, and it may not be," he said.

Mr Brown, managing director of the state group's ship repair division. Last night British Shipbuilders declined to explain the change in leadership.

Mr Gilmartin's departure coincided with the long-awaited announcement from Britain's government that there was an order for 26,000 dwt "Cardiff" class bulk carriers. The order is worth about £15m, and will qualify for about £4.5m in subsidy from the shipbuilding intervention fund.

The ships, for an unnamed British buyer, will be built at the extensively-modernized Firth Paddock.

Last night, Mr Gilmartin said: "This is one of those things; least said, soonest mended. I have enjoyed my years at Govan very much in

considering a further appeal.

EMS decision delay

Mr Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, told foreign journalists Britain was unlikely to take an early decision on joining the European Monetary System.

PRICE CHANGES

Rises

Amelia Group 50 to 41p
Leverhulme 60 to 63p
Gross 35c to 34c
Dartmouth 33p to 30p
Oil Exploration 40p to 63p

Falls

Amelia 5p to 365p
Hedge Ware 1p to 161p
United 5p to 604p
Sand Central 2p to 5p
Southam 2p to 1p

THE POUND

Bank	Bank	Bank
Barclays	Barclays	Barclays
1.29	1.33	1.33
Tesco 25.75	26.75	26.75
Religious Soc 62.25	62.25	62.25
Swiss 2.55	2.52	2.52
Denmark Kr 12.25	11.50	11.50
France Fr 8.07	8.07	8.07
Germany DM 2.25	2.25	2.25
Ireland 3.95	3.95	3.95
Ireco Dr 16.00	16.00	16.00
Longhors 10.15	10.15	10.15
Iloy Ls 1835.00	1750.00	1750.00
Spain Pt 502.00	500.00	500.00
Switzerland 1.15	1.15	1.15

New guidelines further restrict NEB's control of British Leyland

By Peter Hill
Industrial Editor

New restrictions on the National Enterprise Board's control of the funding of British Leyland were announced by the Government yesterday.

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, also took steps to prevent future investment by the NEB in industry unless it is accompanied by private investment. The board will be required to sell its shareholding portfolio as soon as practicable to the private sector.

The changes in the board's operations were contained in draft guidelines published by the Department of Industry yesterday. Much closer consultation between the board and the Secretary for Industry is envisaged.

The draft will be closely discussed by Sir Keith and Sir Arthur Knight, the new NEB chairman, who has already expressed concern over the proposals.

The whole question of the funding of the motor group is in doubt because the NEB is not enthusiastic about continuing its monitor responsibility for BL. The new board will be anxious about Government scrutiny of the NEB's medium-sized companies, and wants further discussions of its role as a "stimulator" of investment in industry.

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Govan yard chairman dismissed

By John Hussey
British Shipbuilders has summarily dismissed Mr Archibald Gilmartin from his post as chairman and chief executive of Govan Shipbuilders on Clydeside. It is understood that Mr Gilmartin was asked to resign.

Sir Keith has said that the NEB should only buy when it says the prospect of an adequate rate of return within a reasonable period, and it should also

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Prime rate rises to 19.5pc in Italy

Italy's prime rate has been raised by three points to 19.5 per cent, after last Wednesday's increase from 12 to 15 per cent.

At the same time, the Italian Banking Association widened the differential with interest paid on current and deposit accounts.

In a move expected to arouse protests from account holders, it announced an increase of only .75 per cent to take effect on January 1. The maximum rate on large accounts will now be 11.5 per cent.

ENI finds gasfield

ENI, the Italian state hydrocarbons corporation has announced the discovery of a commercial gasfield, named Port Corsini, 80 miles off Ravenna in the northern Adriatic. The field is expected to yield over 300 million cubic metres of methane a year.

Toronto plant closed

Pilkington Glass Industries is closing one of its two Toronto plants permanently, which will put 400 employees out of work. The closing comes after a 16-week strike which cost the company \$C16m (about £6.5m).

Jobless rate steady

There were 76,000 unemployed in Sweden last November, 1.8 per cent of the total labour force of 4.29 million, the Central Bureau of Statistics. This is largely unchanged from last October when the figure was 78,000.

European currency

The European Economic Community commission is proposing to use the ECU (European Currency Unit) for all community activities.

Bankruptcies up

Japanese corporate bankruptcies in November increased to 1,682, up 11 per cent from 1,515 in October and up 13.4 per cent from 1,483 in the like year-earlier month, according to a private corporate credit inquiry agency, Teikoku Koshinsho.

ICGas

Imperial Continental Gas Association

Consolidated Results (unaudited)

	Half year to 30.9.79	Half year to 30.9.78	Year to 31.3.79
	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s
Turnover	32,837	67,335	187,720
Trading Profit	6,559	6,456	28,478
Depreciation	(6,540)	(5,487)	(11,369)
	49	969	17,109
Income from Allied Companies	—	—	4,684
Share of profits of Associated Companies	4,174	3,090	10,812
Income from General Investments	410	803	1,207
Interest (net)	722	(300)	(424)
Group Results before taxation	5,355	4,562	33,388
Taxation	801	761	9,305
Group Results after taxation	4,554	3,801	24,083
Minority Interests	(17)	(138)	(381)
Exchange Loss	—	—	(257)
Results attributable to ICGas	4,537	3,663	23,446

Interim Dividend

The Directors have declared an interim dividend for the year ending 31 March 1980 of 8p per £1 stock unit on the £42,873,000 ordinary capital stock, costing £3,430,000, payable 15th February 1980. An interim dividend of 6p per stock unit, together with a supplementary dividend of 0.088p per stock unit was paid on the 20th March 1979 on £41,546,000 ordinary capital stock costing £2,530,000. Stockholders will recall that, as a result of the lifting of dividend restraint from 1st August 1979, last year's rate of final dividend was double the rate of interim dividend. The increase in this year's interim dividend is intended to reduce the disparity between the interim and final dividends.

Consolidation of Accounts

The Association published fully consolidated accounts for the first time for the year 1978/79. In spite of this change, it is not possible to include "Share of profits of Associated Companies" in the Interim Results figures in respect of UNERG, a public quoted company, which publishes its results annually. The comparative figures for the half year to 30th September 1978, have been restated on the basis applied in the current year.

Results for the Half Year

As in previous years, the Directors emphasize that the figures provide no guidance concerning the outcome for the year. In addition to the seasonal nature of the Group's activities, the results of UNERG, through which a major part of the utility interests of the Group is held, are excluded. Furthermore, no dividend income from Petrofina and Imserco is included in the first half year.

Turnover

Of the increase in turnover of £15,502,000, the Calor Group accounted for £14,727,000 (+25.3%) and the Belgian subsidiary companies' trading activities accounted for £1,268,000 (-15.9%).

Calor Group

The trading profit showed an increase of 13.8% on the previous year. The lower ratio of profit to turnover at the half year was again due to increased fixed costs in a highly seasonal business and pressure on gross margins arising from further increases in product costs, which could not be immediately recovered by increased prices or improved productivity.

Depreciation continued its rise to £5,552,000, an increase of 16.6% over the previous year, reflecting the high level of capital expenditure necessary to meet growth in demand.

Century Power and Light Ltd.

Trading profits for the period, at £439,000, were down on the previous year by £97,000, after a decline in sales of gas.

Belgian Group

The results of the direct trading activities of the Belgian Group, less administration charges, were £47,000 down at £1,252,000. Depreciation amounted to £837,000, an increase of £271,000.

Associated Companies

The share of profits of associated companies, which was higher by £1,084,000, relates to the results to 30th June, and underlines the sensitivity to climatic conditions, the results benefiting from the extreme conditions in the first quarter of 1979.

A holding company in the fuel and power industries

Copies of the Full Interim Statement can be obtained from Hill Samuel Registrars, Ltd., 6 Greencoat Place, London SW1P 1PL.

Establishment of new union unlikely to avert fight over membership

Stage set for bank staffs recruitment war

The decision by the staff associations of three major London clearing banks to merge and form their own union brings into sharp relief the philosophical differences between them and the main TUC-affiliated union in the industry.

Industrial relations in the banking industry have been chaotic since the Banking Insurance and Finance Union (formerly NUBE) abandoned joint negotiating some two years ago in protest at the lack of movement towards establishing a single union.

BUFU, as a member of the TUC, is interested in recruiting as many members as possible from the staff associations at Barclays, National Westminster and Lloyds. The announcement on Monday that the associations had decided to merge to form a new Clearing Banks Union, with 93,000 members, is an attempt to forestall a recruitment war in banking and finance. But Mr Clive Jenkins, President of the Association of Scientific Technical and Managerial Staffs (ASTMS),

The staff associations were prepared to

accept in full the second Johnston report, drawn up in October. However, BUFU wanted to set up working parties to examine questions of detail, while accepting the six major principles embodied in the report.

To the staff associations examination of detail meant renegotiation and while they may, as a last resort, have been prepared to go along with this, as a "gesture of goodwill", they asked BUFU to rejoin joint negotiating machinery, which BUFU refused.

The stage now appears to have been set for BUFU and ASTMS, which has a significant membership in the Midland Bank, to fight each other over the staff associations, with the possible outcome that the two unions may each pick up one of the associations, with the third finding a place elsewhere.

Meanwhile the luckiest bank of them all is Williams and Glyn's, which negotiates only with BUFU and is the envy of the world of finance.

David Felton

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Level of investment in housing

From Mr Norman Griggs

Sir, Mr D. S. Robertson (Decem- ber 5) attributes under-investment in industry to the high level of owner-occupation in Britain but there is no real connexion between the two. Mr Robertson is right in pointing out that the proportion of owner-occupation is lower in West Germany, France and Holland than it is in Britain though he is wrong in claiming that this is also the case in Denmark. However, the United States and Canada both have a much higher level of owner-occupation than in this country but they do not have our poor industrial record.

It may be that the proportion of personal wealth held in the form of housing has increased but this has not been at the expense of industrial investment.

Most of the activity in the housing market relates to second-hand dwellings and this does not entail the consumption of resources. In fact, the

proportion of gross domestic product devoted to housing in Britain is lower than in most other advanced countries and all the evidence submitted to the Wilson Committee demonstrates that the problems facing industry has not been lack of capital but rather lack of profitable investment opportunities.

Certainly, industrial investment is vital but before advocating policies to increase it one must get the "nature of the problem right".

Yours faithfully,

NORMAN GRIGGS,
Secretary General,
The Building Societies
Association,
34 Park Street,
Mayfair, London, W1V 3PF.

From Mr D. R. Townley

Sir, Mr. Robertson's argument

(December 5) that investment

in industry is affected by in-

vestment in private housing is

incorrect.

Yours faithfully,

D. R. TOWLEY,

Fairhaven,

Putney Hill,

London SW15.

The only effect of Mr Robertson's "housing remedies" will be to provide even more money to the city money pool and so cause the rate of interest to fall—but as Keynes argued, the rate of interest has only a very marginal effect on investment and this has subsequently been borne out by experience.

Yours faithfully,

D. R. TOWLEY,

Fairhaven,

Putney Hill,

London SW15.

From The Rt Hon The Earl of Kinnoull

Sir, We now learn from Sir Peter Carey's evidence to the Commons Public Accounts Committee that not only had the recently-resigned members of the NEB been blown off course on their way to obtaining their financial objectives, but that they were also reluctant to divulge to the Department of Industry information about companies in their care.

Where have we heard this before? Were not weaknesses in financial control and reliance on co-operation the principal allegations by Sir Leslie Murphy against Sir Kenneth Keith?

May one express with confidence the hope that under former control the new NEB will exhibit a more mature understanding of its difficult problems and avoid the dangers common to all those who are obliged to dwell in glass houses.

Otherwise "guis custodis" custodes?

KINNOULL,
House of Commons,
London, SW1.
Dec 6.

Bad stamp planning?

From Ms Alice Hemming

Sir, Every year the Post Office issues up to 100 new postage stamps early, so every year we have to set our face-to-face greetings off with an ordinary stamp; the handsome specially designed special Christmas issue always comes out long after the allotted date. Bad planning? What a pity!

Alice Hemming,
35 Kilnworthy Road,
NW3 3BT.

Aston may make offer for MG cars

By Edward Townsend

Aston Martin Lagonda, the leader of the consortium which is investigating the purchase from BL of its MG cars subsidiary, could be making an offer within the next few weeks.

The consortium has held discussions with BL executives and it has been given access to financial and other data on the MG operation at Abingdon.

Aston Martin said the talks had been "of a meaningful nature". Considerable progress had been made but it was considered premature to make either party to make a public statement.

The next key point will be very early in the new year when the results are assimilated and analysed to determine our stance."

The possibility of the purchase became more uncertain this week when BL's Austin Morris announced that the Coventry-based export packing department would be switched to Abingdon and that a specialized vehicle unit would be established at the MG factory. All the buildings at the MG site would be used.

Although the consortium has been investigating possible factory sites for building MG cars, it would be most interested in a deal which included takeover of the Abingdon plant.

Aston Martin discounted suggestions that the Massy Ferguson factory at Kilmarnock in Scotland, which is to close in February, could be the home for MG sports cars. The company said the factory was the subject of "a wide range of options" considered before discussions with BL reached a detailed stage.

The MG plant, which has a workforce of 1,500, is to close after a decision to switch car production to France. The plant is modern and has a good industrial relations record.

Cost of private health care

From Mr K. L. Stretch

Sir, Are your correspondents being quite fair to Bupa? Although I throw away old prospectuses to avoid cluttering up my desk, I always did increase with age? By 65 most should be free from the heaviest burdens and costs will be expected to divert a higher proportion of their income to protecting their members' welfare.

The young might even point out that it was the heavy burden of "generosity" to the immobility of sustaining our ease by institutionalized "bilking" that allowed us mere mortals to reach its present magnitude.

Yours faithfully,
LEWIS STRETCH,
1 Manor Close,
Ashby-de-la-Zouch,
Leicester LE16 8SE
December 4.

Bank on Grindlays around the world

With our head office in London and 200 branches and offices in some 35 countries, Grindlays means different things to different people around the world.

Our traditional presence in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia.

Our expanding role in Asia Pacific, Europe and North America.

Our success in developing relationships in Latin America.

Our corporate and merchant banking capability in London and other key centres.

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Group
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23 F

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Straws in the wind

yesterday's November banking figures were every bit as bad as expected. The banks' eligible liabilities rose by 1.9 per cent on the month; the banking system as a whole as further out of the corset than at any point to date; and the figures from the earning banks confirmed that loan demand remained uncomfortably strong.

Yet for all that there were still straws to clutch at. For a start, it seems that Thursday's figures for sterling M3 will be anything like as bad as the eligible liability figures might suggest. Indeed, as a result of a number of factors—nobody fleeing bank transactions with discount rates, the rise in non-resident sterling deposits and a change in the banks' betwitched position—growth in sterling M3 looks as if it might work out at little more than a half per cent. And that would bring the annualized rate of growth since June down from nearly 14 per cent to under 13. More important, of course, is the fact that a mid-November rise in interest rates had real chance to bite. The impact of that is still to work its way through and may well require several months' patience. Even so, the rise in lending in November was early well below the October surge and the figures for the three months to November suggest some fall in the rate of quarterly increase.

In the gilt market, buyers were already five ahead of yesterday afternoon's announcement of the banking figures on the news that the market had already discounted a more pessimistic expectation. So, given the indication of relatively acceptable M3 growth, the market continued to better through the afternoon with further help coming from rather better than parched figures for the central government borrowing requirement in November. All this was enough for the short-medium gap to be declared exhausted at the close, whether or not the authorities will be keen to push a new stock into the market ahead of the holidays remains to be seen. Clearly, want to hold interest rates around their present level until they have firm evidence at their medicine is working.

Raising a hoary old problem—but one it has still to be satisfactorily resolved—Chancellor, Sir Geoffrey Howe, nineteen institutional investors last night said if they invest in a company they cannot avoid some responsibility for its success or failure.

Institutions, despite much debate over the years, have always argued that as investors they are not qualified to interfere in the management of the companies in which they invest, and that the sanction which they can apply most effectively is to sell the shares they don't like a company's performance, as Sir Geoffrey said selling leaves someone else with the problem and the institution with a loss.

It would be better if institutions took a more positive action and used their influence to appoint a non-executive director whose experience and judgment could trust. Some institutions may dismiss this as yet another suggestion from someone who fails to understand the problems, but those "problems" are beginning to look like excuses.

Gas orth Sea potential

usual half-time figures from ICI Gas are guide to nothing—in particular—except, perhaps, to the impact of rising fixed costs, a relatively low level of sales. Trading fits of Calor Gas have risen by only 1.8 per cent, as against a 25.3 per cent rise in November, and at the present level this year shows a loss of £1.27m, as against a £1.62m in the corresponding period last year. After depreciation provisions and interest charges, the group as a whole, after a £1.2m rebase to £4.17m in the contribution from associates, has produced pre-tax profits some 0.000 higher, at £5.36m, as against the £5.39m recorded in the whole of last year. End-year figures will show the benefit of the usual seasonal surge in calor sales (20 per cent up, so far this quarter, volume for the same period last year), a second of the price rise planned for January, which should help redress the

squeeze on margins apparent in the first half figures. In addition there are contributions from the associate UNERC, and dividends from Petrofina and Intercom to be brought in. So the pre-tax total overall is likely to be in excess of £35m.

Longer-term, Calor Gas is hoping for improved performance from an increase in gas supplies, and the group as a whole stands to benefit from its North Sea oil ventures in the Maureen, Andrew and Block 1 fields. Meantime the shares, at 615p, will yield 4.6p on a maintained final dividend. They are solid enough anyway, and could prove exciting if the North Sea throws up riches.

Trafalgar House Searching for new growth

Trafalgar House has gone ex-growth, although profits, down to £43.7m against last year's £50.6m, are actually 5 per cent ahead of £19m of exceptional property and share profits are excluded from the 1978 figure.

Nevertheless, Trafalgar has stood still for three years with its four main trading engines failing to synchronize.

For the moment it has neither the share rating or the balance sheet to do anything dramatic on the takeover front, so it has had to take a cool look at the four existing trading divisions for the next leap forward. Judging by the heavy move into property development, the group clearly sees this activity as at least the short-term solution.

Contracting and building continues to fare remarkably well with profits up 17 per cent to £26m. But despite the quality of some of its contracts, there could be pressure, particularly on the civil engineering side, next year.

Shipping, aviation and hotels saw some recovery in the second-half reducing the loss to £5.5m with better performances on the cargo side. Newspapers meanwhile have done well. Profits have increased slightly to £6.6m after charging some £2.5m of start-up costs on the Daily Star and Financial Weekly. However, the Sunday Express and specialist titles are still making running although Daily Express losses have been reduced. That trend must be in doubt next year as the newspaper business runs into recession.

Properties, which slipped in £15.4m against last year's heavily inflated £22m, should contribute strongly next year given the low physical property yields and signs of an improvement in office letting and rentals.

Indeed, sale of the Whitbread complex alone could transform next year's results. But with the shares up 1p to 54p offering a p/e of 6 and yielding 11.6 per cent the market does not need reminding that Trafalgar is now more than a property company.

Serck Cuts the dividend

It has been rough for Serck, the Birmingham process and power engineering company, profits slumped from £5.15m to £1.6m last year, and the final dividend is cut from 6.5p to 1.7p, making 4.5p for the year against 9.8p.

Serck had to close the loss-making Serck Tubes. Together with reorganisation at the Heat Transfer and Valve companies, this cost £3.1m. National engineering and transport strikes and internal labour problems following the end of wage controls cost £2.5m, and borrowing rose from £4.3m to £11.5m and are still growing, uncomfortable when interest rates are at an all-time peak.

Serck's business is closely tied to overseas demand for process engineering equipment, particularly in the Middle East, and to power engineering at home. Orders have picked up and given less elimination last year profits could recover to around £5m. But the dividend is not likely to be restored so soon.

That said the market was expecting more yesterday. The shares gained 2p to 40p,

where they yield about 12 per cent, enough to be going on with particularly as the chances of another bid must be on the cards.

Business Diary: Scotch thistle • Driving a hard bargain



Holloway
"Doctor, I'm sure I am neither ill nor rich enough for a prescription this long."

Toyota (GB) the British import arm of the biggest car maker, holds an occasional gathering in London to discuss Anglo-Japanese matters.

Business Diary went along yesterday and may have let the tone of the meeting down by asking amid all the mutual economic stuff why it is so more expensive to buy Japanese cars here than it is in the United States or western Europe.

Alan March, an ex-Ford man and now sales and marketing director for Toyota (GB), agreed that it is possible to buy Toyota or any other Japanese car on the United States market at around half the standard Japanese price.

March's explanation is that importers have to balance one market with another countries. In one case, reflecting a loss in one with high profits in another.

They are dusting off an oldish toast, "Confusion to the pitch," in the Scotch whisky trade, if my conversation with Coombs yesterday is anything to go by.

Coombs is the managing director of a lively British distillers, Long John International, as well as a board member and public spokesman for industry's pressure group, Scotch Whisky Association, and many others in this fledgling British export industry, fed up with the French raiding Scotch imports to test their own cognac.

On February 1, the French stopped another five francs a bottle of Scotch because citizens are now drinking more bottles of Scotch to every bottle of brandy.

The European Court of Justice, Coombs says, will lead to further rumbles about the tax world that just strings along and "do a lamb" tax as they saw fit.

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 12 1979

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Christopher Wilkins examines a change of direction in international lending

Upheaval in the Eurocurrency markets

The Eurocurrency markets are undergoing a more wide-ranging upheaval than at any time since the collapse of Herstatt Bank in 1974. The beneficiaries will be the bankers. The losers will be the borrowers. The question is whether, in contrast to the post-1974 period, the banks' "victory" will turn out to be totally hollow affair.

Iran is not, in itself, the prime cause of the upheaval, except in the sense that the events since the Shah's fall have played a vital role in the Opec price increases of the past year. Rather, the financial war raging between the United States and Iran is providing the same kind of trigger as Herstatt did five years ago. The conditions have already been created for an abrupt change of direction before the taking of the hostages.

The change which is underway will be seen by many bankers as a move back towards sanity in the international lending markets. Since mid-1976, when the scale of the Herstatt collapse and the consequent fear of more widespread bank failures had died down, the probability of Eurocurrency lending has been steadily declining.

Evenly matched monetary policies and a growing American trade deficit fuelled the dollar liquidity of the international banking system. At the same time low levels of borrowing demand in the developed world prompted growth-inclined banks to seek new opportunities in international—especially Third World—markets rather than at home.

The result was a borrower's market, and the borrowers took full advantage. The decline of the Opec surpluses (until this year), meant fewer balance of payments crises among developing countries and improving credit worthiness. International borrowing soared from about \$21,000m in 1975 to some \$70,000m in 1978. This year it will be around \$80,000m.

The main symptom of the borrowers' supremacy was the increasing willingness of the banks to face the competition to concede longer maturity loans—commonly 10 to 15 years rather than five to seven—and to accept progressively lower profit margins over their own cost of money (see table). By the middle of this year, margins had sunk to the point where the interest rates credits produced barely any profit at all.

All this is now changing. The transformation is, perhaps, less sudden than it was at the time of Herstatt, but the evidence of a new mood is none the less clear. In some cases lending margins have already risen. In other banks are proving reluctant to commit themselves on the same scale or with the same speed as three months ago.

The task of possible default, or at least of unavoidable debt rescheduling by important borrowers is again being heard.

Most Eurocurrency loans are made on a floating rate basis, and the recent efforts by the United States Federal Reserve Board (FED) to limit monetary growth through a policy of high interest rates, inevitably means an onerous additional debt-servicing requirement. For example, a 1 per cent rise in dollar interest rates is estimated to add \$500m to Brazil's annual payments bill. United States prime rates are now 3½ per cent higher than they were a year ago.

For lending banks, all the old assumptions on creditworthiness are having to be scrapped. The risk implicit in international loans has plainly risen, and with it the demand of the banks for a commensurate return.

At the same time, the need of the banks for international growth is diminishing. In the United States domestic loan demand has this year been running at a record level. Elsewhere it has been more sluggish, but for most banks, especially those with a big base of cheap or free current account deposits, high interest rates, in any case, equate with high profitability. In such conditions, low margin wholesale banking, as characterised by Euromarket lending, become less and less attractive.

Iran has added new uncertainty, raising questions about the dollar's future and undermining previous assumptions about the independence of the Euromarkets from political influence—a fundamental basis for the market's existence.

But the real concern among bankers now is whether they will be able to fulfil the role that the IMF, the World Bank and so on can fill in the void that is now inexorably to be formed.

Emmanuel Kay, cites Canada and Australia as precedents for abolition of capital taxes. He says that in those countries abolition was little criticized and, in particular, there was little public controversy in Australia, "a country with a strong trade union movement and a major Labour Party".

Presumably, he had not read the TUC submission to Lord Cockfield, which calls for stronger CTT and, of course, an overall wealth tax.

Lord Cockfield will not recommend abolition, both for reasons of philosophy—the need for "restraints" and on yield grounds. Capital taxes, he declares, yield £2,000m and government has no scope for such reductions. The yields of CTT and CGT—respectively £400m and £500m—are enough to represent constraints for further reduction, for it is uneconomic to reduce taxes to levels which make the tax costly to collect.

What of development land tax? Lord Cockfield says that all that is to be done has been done. On inheritance tax, there is a long-term aim to harmonise with Europe, but the Green paper, Lord Cockfield produced under Lord Barber was unenthusiastically received, as he himself conceded.

Finally, there are the wider issues. If next April increased income taxes are needed as a defence against wage claims, then that will hardly be the moment to abolish or reduce capital taxes.

All in all, it does seem that the government has left itself with little room for manoeuvre and the various constituents may limit changes to the thresholds, rates and technical adjustments designed to simplify and draw the teeth. Abolition is not in prospect.

Oliver Stanley

Capital taxes: how much room for manoeuvre

Last June, in his first Budget, the Chancellor showed a capacity for fiscal innovation which surprised even his colleagues. He cut the basic rate of income tax by 3p and the top rate from 83 per cent to 60 per cent; and he generally raised thresholds, giving away £4,300m.

He also announced a thorough review of capital taxes to implement his election promise to make them simpler and less oppressive.

Lord Cockfield, Treasury minister of state, was given the task of producing legislation in the 1980 Finance Bill to reduce the period of uncertainty generated by knowledge that the system was to be rehashed yet again.

Since 1976 Sir Geoffrey Howe has been saying that he wants to draw the teeth of capital transfer tax (CTT) because it inhibits the creation and development of new small businesses. According to his creed, capital taxes represent a disincentive to save, work and invest.

Tories must be expected to oppose forms of taxation devised explicitly to redistribute wealth to make the proverbial pipe squeak. So one prophecy is that CTT will be abolished in the April Finance Bill, creating a free-for-all in which the rich get richer—hindered only by massive recession.

In any case—so the argument runs—abolition of exchange control makes capital taxes so easy to avoid as to make them redundant. The logic goes: if you can't tax it, it will be passed through the conduit of a numbered Swiss account and what the eye does not see, the national purse will not miss.

On June 12 the Chancellor said: "People want to build up capital of their own and pass it on to their children..." Now they are allowed to do so in the

currency of Swiss francs or Deutsche marks, than which, say the cynics, no better incentive can be conceived.

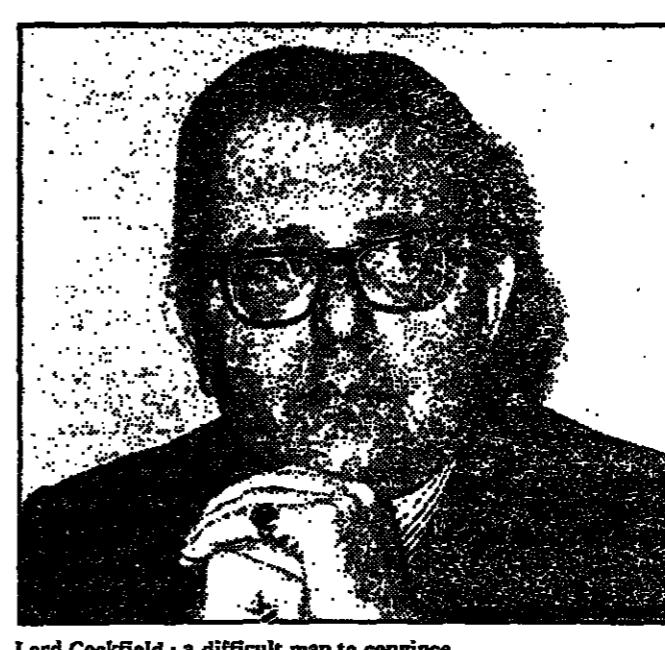
In fact, that represents a complete misunderstanding of the government view. In *The Right Approach of 1976* the then Conservative opposition said: "We would not think it right to remove all restraints on the aggregation and transmission of substantial wealth. It is not part of our aims to encourage the concentration of the country's assets in fewer and fewer hands".

This is the gospel according to Sir Geoffrey, which Lord Cockfield has been preaching at his series of meetings with national representative bodies. All the lobbying, the Confederation of British Industry, Institute of Directors, National Farmers' Union, County Landowners' Association, the professional institutes—have put forward detailed submissions on behalf of their members, earnestly pleading for relief. It is a tribute to the minister's stamina he has not disappeared under mountain of paper.

Lord Cockfield is a difficult man to convince and he can destroy a facile case with ease. He believes in the principle "Consult first, draft the new law afterwards", so the 1980 Finance Bill debate should be less discursive and ineffectual than it might be in other hands.

The representations made to him on capital taxes disclose a unanimity of outlook in business opinion: the capital threshold is too low and the rate scale goes up too steeply to too high a maximum rate. A threshold of £50,000 seems sensible, the value of a comfortable—but not a luxury house. A top marginal rate of 50 per cent at the £3m mark is favoured by the CBI, and this seems a likely profile.

Trusts and trustees have been harshly treated for CTT and it is argued that the attempt to



Lord Cockfield: a difficult man to convince.

treat them as mere tax shelters should cease.

On capital gains tax the central problem is inflation. Two alternative solutions have been canvassed—indexation (adjustment in line with, say, a prices index) and tapering, a progressive reduction of the chargeable gain over a stipulated period, perhaps, three years (Institute of Directors) or seven years (CBI).

The minister's preliminary and tentative conclusion is that indexation is administratively too complex, particularly for Stock Exchange securities; and tapering is too crude and does not solve the problem.

Another popular prayer is for more roll-over relief—that is, deferral of liability until sale

of the asset replacing the one sold. Double liability on gifts to CTT and CGT—should be eliminated and, anyway, the rate of 30 per cent is surely too high.

Some representations are extraordinarily detailed. The Unquoted Companies Group of 21 members who provide employment for 17,000 people, lists twenty-five different changes needed, the first 10 of which are extracted verbatim from a letter written by Sir Geoffrey Howe (in Opposition) to Sir Denis Healey (then Chancellor) dated April 3, 1975.

That letter renewed the Conservative pledge to "repeal" capital transfer tax, but that was a long time ago.

The chairman of the Unquoted Companies Group, Sir

Stanley, is not in prospect.

The year end borrowings less cash and deposits were £11.5m. (1978 £4.3m.)

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT

Year ended 30 September 1979

Group sales £'000 1979 1978
Profit before interest 91,900 93,300
Interest charges—net 3,304 6,094

Group profit before taxation & extraordinary items 1,704 944
Taxation relief (charge) 1,600 5,150

Earnings 49 (2,308)
Extraordinary items—closure & major reorganisation costs 1,669 2,900

Borthwicks

International meat processors and traders

Preliminary Announcement for year ended 30th September 1979

	1979	1978
Group turnover	£573,756,000	£512,160,000
Profit before tax	£7,341,000	£6,222,000
Profit attributable to Shareholders	£4,563,000	£4,559,000

The mainstream meat business produced a satisfactory, but unexciting result. Australia and New Zealand did well with beef sales to the U.S.A., but New Zealand did badly with lamb due principally to poor market conditions in the U.K.

The newer businesses outside the mainstream meat operations are moving forward, especially the vigorously expanding retail shops in the U.K. and France.

A total dividend for the year of 6.2p per share on 45,146,378 shares, amounting to £2,799,000 is recommended. In 1978 a total dividend of 6.2p per share amounting to £2,796,000 was paid.

Registered Office: Priory House, St. John's Lane, London, EC1M 4BX.

S. Simpson L I M I T E D

The 46th Annual General Meeting of S. Simpson Limited was held on 11th December in London. Dr. S. L. Simpson, Chairman presiding. The following are extracts from his circulated statement.

Turnover has been further increased in the year under review, but not with the same degree of profitability, largely due to the degree of increase in inflationary costs, direct and indirect, industrial and social unrest and excessive taxation referred to in the penultimate paragraph of my 1978 Report. These factors and the paradoxical excessive strength of Sterling in the international monetary field were more serious in their impact on profitability in the second half of the financial year. Nevertheless we have made progress in several directions and widened our base for trading throughout the world.

On the manufacturing side, we continue our policy of optimum investment in new manufacturing plant and technology to ensure the high quality tailoring essential for success in competitive markets at home and overseas.

Our existing licensees continue to carry the name of DAKS throughout the world and we have recently renewed our licensing agreements in Japan and initiated licensing arrangements in the U.S.A. and Switzerland for a range of DAKS Accessories.

Once again, as Chairman, I am pleased to tender my thanks and appreciation to all my colleagues on the Boards and to the employees of all Companies within the Group for their untiring efforts and loyalty during the past year.

UK must develop microprocessor if it is not to 'go out of business'

By Kenneth Owen
Technology Editor

If Britain does not move forward with the new technology of microprocessors the country will "go out of business", a Department of Industry report published yesterday says. For the country to stay as it is is not an available choice.

Wealth could be generated by grasping the opportunities offered by the microelectronic revolution. But in-built resistance to change can die institutionalized conflict between management and labour might prevent this, and "serious social disruption" could result.

Should events merely be left to take their course, without the creation of a reasoned and definite strategy, there is some ultimate danger of either an unwholesome State-centralized control, or an unequal and vicious society with incompatible contracts between rich and poor.

Microprocessors have three broad types of impact. They "enhance people's capabilities and enrich their lives" by simulating the manufacture of new products; they conserve other resources such as energy or materials; and they can act as substitutes for labour by decreasing the amount of labour required for a given output or increasing the output of a given labour force.

If the United Kingdom fails

to apply microelectronics at least as rapidly as other countries do, much of British industry will come under heavy and intensifying competition from overseas, the report says.

Microprocessors are good fortune, not misfortune.

There could be a shift in the geographical pattern of wealth creation in Britain, the report suggests, with the decline of manufacturing in the north and the growth of new information and knowledge-based service industries in the south.

Impact of microprocessors on British business. Published by the National Computing Centre, Manchester. Price, £5.50.

Forecasters predict gloomy year ahead

Britain faces a drop in output next year, with rising unemployment, and continuing high levels of inflation according to all but one of the economic forecasters quoted below. Surprisingly, perhaps, the Treasury

is the most pessimistic about output next year—predicting a drop of 2 per cent in the economy. The National Institute of Economic and Social Research is the most optimistic about growth prospects.

FORECASTS FOR THE BRITISH ECONOMY

	Year 1980 on year 1979	LBS	HG	CE	ST.J.	P & D	Treasury
	(Nov.)	(Nov.)	(Dec.)	(Oct.)	(Oct.)	(Dec.)	(Nov.)
Gross domestic product	0.2	-1.1	-1.0	-1.3	-0.9	-1.8	-2
Inflation	16.3	15.5	16.9	16.4	13.2*	16.1	14*
Unemployment (000)	1,420*	1,267	1,500	1,800	1,650	1,458	n.a.
Consumer spending	1.6	0.1	-0.5	-0.9	0.7	-1.2	+
Private investment inc	-2.0	-2.4*	-0.7	-6.6*	-0.6*	-3.1	-1*
Public investment inc	-2.0	-2.4*	-0.7	-6.6*	-0.6*	-3.1	-1*
Housebuilding	-4.3	-2.2	-1.5	-6.6*	-0.9*	-5.9	-4.1*
Public authorities' consumption	-0.1	0.5	-0.6	1.1	0.5	-0.8	0
Stockbuilding (£m 1975 prices)	1,481	-396	291	-600	0.2*	-100	-2*
Exports	4.0	4.0	2.9	1.9	2.9	3.2	0
Imports	1.7	-1.1	0.8	-1.4	-0.4	0.2	-23
Balance of payments current account deficit (-) Year 1980 £m	-3,300	-660	-300	+1,300	-2,200	-900	-2,000
PSBR (£m fiscal 1980-81)	9,000	11,200	10,000	9,600	10,200	8,900	
Money supply (% change in £m fiscal 1980-81)	9	7.5	9	9.8	11.7*	7.7*	n.a.

NIESR: National Institute of Economic and Social Research; LBS: London Business School; HG: Hoare Govett; CE: Cambridge Econometrics; ST.J.: St James' Group; published in Economist; P & D: Phillips and Drew; * fourth quarter 1980 on fourth quarter 1979. * fourth quarter 1980. * excluding oil. * gross fixed investment. * private fixed investment. * public corporation's fixed investment. * stockbuilding as % gdp. * second quarter 1981 on second quarter 1980. * PSBR is forecast to stay at about the same % in many firms as in 1979-80.

Forecasts for gdp components are in constant prices. * The private forecasts assume policy changes. For details readers should refer to original sources. Categories in different forecasts are not completely comparable, but differences are minor. Differences in result also reflect difference in assumptions, model constructions and date at which work performed. The month in which work was published is given in brackets. Forecasts published by the Treasury twice yearly. NIESR, CE and ST.J. four times a year; LBS three times a year; HG and P & D revise their forecasts every month.

Business appointments

Mr Macmillan to join board of Yarrow and Co

Mr Maurice Macmillan has joined the board of Yarrow and Co as a non-executive director.

Mr T. G. Congdon will be joining L. Messel & Co with effect from April 14 next year.

Mr A. R. M. Brown has been appointed commercial director of Derry Maco.

Mr Michael Hargrave is to join the board of Nell and Spencer Holdings.

Mr M. J. Stringer, deputy chairman and managing director of Wadham Stringer, has been appointed to the board of TKM. Mr J. Stein, ex-executive director of TKM, has been appointed to the Wadham Stringer board.

Mr L. F. Titcomb has been appointed chairman and continues as managing director of Norman Hay following the death of Mr Norman Hay, chairman and joint managing director.

Mr B. D. Romeril, deputy chief accountant, Mond Division, and Mr G. J. Madden, general manager of Simeons UK, New Zealand, have been appointed assistant treasurers of ICI.

Mr Douglas R. Baker, managing partner and chief executive of Teachee Ross & Co has been elected chairman of the board of governors, Teachee Ross, International.

Mr Richard Hurst, property and development director of B.A.T. Holdings, and Mr John Sheldene, company secretary of International Stores, have been appointed directors of Argos.

Sir Ian McLennan, chairman of Australia and New Zealand Banking Group (ANZ), has been elected chairman of the board of directors of the Bank of Adelaide, and Mr M. Brumichurst, ANZ managing director, has been appointed to the board of directors of ANZ.

Mr J. E. Ward has been appointed chief executive and a director of Lewis & Peat (Merchandising) and chairman and director of Wagon-Intercity. He will continue as a director of Guiness Peat International and chairman of Roberts Petroleum. Mr F. C. Simeon will be appointed a director of Guiness Peat International, and will remain a director of Lewis & Peat (Merchandising). Mr C. J. Cain will be appointed managing director of Guiness Peat (Overseas) whilst remaining a director of Guiness Peat International.

Mr Hugh Ellis has been appointed managing director of Intercity Electrical Services.

Mr J. J. French has been appointed chairman-elect of Danson Park Industries.

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION

To the Holders of

Honda Motor Co., Ltd.

7½% Guaranteed Sinking Fund Debentures Due 1981

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that One Million Three Hundred Thirty Three Thousand Dollars (\$1,333,000) nominal amount of Honda Motor Co. Ltd. 7½% Guaranteed Sinking Fund Debentures due 1981 and bearing the following serial numbers, have been drawn for redemption for amount of \$1,333,000 on January 15, 1980 at the principal amount thereof and accrued interest to that date, the Sinking Fund on January 15, 1980.

DEBENTURES IN DENOMINATION OF \$1,000 EACH

21 1882	2821	672	562	582	592	592	592	592	592	592	592	592
25 1702	2822	472	561	582	592	592	592	592	592	592	592	592
50 1712	3004	473	562	592	592	592	592	592	592	592	592	592
55 1720	3010	473	562	592	592	592	592	592	592	592	592	592
60 1729	3016	475	562	592	592	592	592	592	592	592	592	592
65 1735	3021	476	562	592	592	592	592	592	592	592	592	592
70 1744	3026	477	562	592	592	592	592	592	592	592	592	592
75 1753	3031	478	562	592	592	592	592	592	592	592	592	592
80 1770	3067	487	562	592	592	592	592	592	592	592	592	592
85 1774	3068	487	562	592	592	592	592	592	592	592	592	592
90 1778	3071	488	562	592	592	592	592	592	592	592	592	592
95 1783	3076	489	562	592	592	592	592	592	592	592	592	592
100 1788	3081	490	562	592	592	592	592	592	592	592	592	592
105 1793	3086	491	562	592	592	592	592	592	592	592	592	592
110 1798	3091	492	562	592	592	592	592	592	592	592	592	592
115 1803	3096	493	562	592	592	592	592	592	592	592	592	592
120 1808	3101	494	562	592	592	592	592	592	5			

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Gilts lead the way up despite bank figures

The stock market maintained its firm start to the new account yesterday with a strong performance by gilt-edged which proved strong enough to carry equities along with it.

Even the banking figures, every bit bad as the market had anticipated, failed to deter buyers' enthusiasm, which after a pause to digest the figures, raced on again.

Decca continues to arouse interest as to its future. Meanwhile it is thought by some that the sale of the music business to Polygram could well fetch £10m. A popular figure, Sir Elton, but some believe his consideration will be heavier £15m. The "A" shares rose 5p to 267p.

Dealers are now anticipating that the money supply figures due out on Thursday, may not turn out to be as bad as earlier feared.

The Government's broker reported that supplies of the new £100 Treasury bill per cent. 27.5m have risen from £10m in 1978. It is believed that some are anticipating a new "star" deal to be announced before Christmas.

Business in bonds reached its highest level for quite some time, with most showing gains of between 1% and 1.5% on the day overall. Shorts made a more cautious start with rises of about 1% reported before the release of the banking figures which expanded to just after leaving overall increased.

K Shoes 27 pc ahead

By Our Financial Staff

A smaller than average pre-tax increase last year helped K Shoes, the Kendal-based manufacturer and retailer to boost profits by 27 per cent while turnover rose by 16 per cent.

Pre-tax profits were £5m against £3.9m and turnover went from £55m to £61.4m in the year ending September 30, 1979. During the year the group paid a 7.5 per cent wage rise which was well below the general rate of labour increases.

But the group said that this year's pay round would produce a higher increase. It has reverted to the shoe industry's traditional scheme of paying a six-month cost-of-living increase as well as a percentage rise in November.

Mr Spencer Crookenden, chairman, said that the manufacture of the brand had shown the greatest increase in profits although retailing had made further progress. K children's shoes, in kid-proof leather, have shown parts

particularly strong growth in pairs sold," he said.

Sales had been particularly strong during the weeks preceding the Budget but the subsequent rise in VAT had knocked that growth by the year-end.

The sharp rise in the price of leather, which in some cases amounted to a 100 per cent increase, also affected the results. And although the price has now fallen, this will not be reflected in the price of shoes until next autumn when the group hopes to hold prices.

Australian exports had also suffered, thanks to big jumps in duty coupled with an import quota system, but K Shoes' activities in the Netherlands where it has its own shops had proved "useful," Mr Crookenden said. The final dividend goes up to 2.5p gross from 1.75p last year. This makes a total of 3.75p against 3p.

The outlook for this year is mixed by the world economic situation and the likely reduction in consumer spending, although the group plans to keep its price rises within the rate of inflation.

group was imminent. This prompted a 7p rise to 155p in Cawdor, which has just increased its stake in Lasmco to 13 per cent, and a 6p advance to 129p in National Carboquartz.

Another Lasmco shareholder.

Other North Sea shares to gain ground included Associated Newspapers 5p better at 249p, while Grays Shipping leapt 15p to 775p on talk of full bid from Cluff Oil following its announcement that it had increased its stake to 12 per cent. Imperial

Continental Gas rose 7p to 615p also aided by a 17 per cent rise in profits at the half way stage. Major oils were somewhat quieter with BP up 2p to 364p as was Ultramar to 410p. Shell Fields rose 10p to 351p.

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FINANCIAL NEWS

Ashton's diamond find

by Michael Prest

Appentines in the diamond business were whetted yesterday by two announcements of exploration results. The Ashton joint venture in Australia issued figures suggesting that its deposit may be more extensive than was thought while Leichhardt Exploration, another Australian company, describes its preliminary sampling in Namibia as "highly encouraging".

The Ashton announcement is in line with the company's policy of supplementing its normal quarterly statements with reports on special occasions. The reason this time is the annual general meeting of Northern Mining on Friday. Northern has a 5 per cent stake in Ashton.

Ashton, whose announcement of a deposit in Western Australia last year sparked off an outburst of diamond fever, said that one Kimberlite sample of about 33 cubic metres yielded 47 carats. Four stones were bigger than one carat, and one was 1.83 carats.

The company also took 11 samples from the alluvial deposits downstream from the kimberlite pipe. The 250 cubic metres of material yielded 2,968 carats. The number of stones exceeding 1 carat was 167, and the biggest was 4.6 carats. The total number of stones was not given.

Leichhardt's exploration is much less advanced. Samples from its prospect at Ashton in Namibia showed fresh kimberlite indicator materials. A full

report will be issued in two months when analysis of the materials is complete.

Diamond industry sources point out, however, that proving the existence of diamonds is one thing, and finding an economic source is another. It could take as long as another three years before the potential of the Ashton site is confirmed.

The company in which the biggest shareholder is Conzinc Riotinto of Australia with 52.6 per cent, itself 36.8 per cent controlled by Rio Tinto-Zinc, emphasises that the results do not mean that an economic assessment of all the alluvial deposits. Moreover, no professional assessment has been made of the ratio of gem stones to industrial diamonds.

Carroll Inds sales top £100m

By Our Financial Staff

Dublin-based cigarette group, Carroll Industries managed a 15 per cent uplift in sales for the 12 months ended September 30, 1979. Group sales rose from £99m to £114.55m, which helped to boost trading profits by more than 22 per cent to £5.17m against £5.052m last year.

Trading profits of the group are based on historical cost conventions, and after making adjustments of depreciation, cost of sales and monetary

working capital, Carroll's pre-tax profit came up to £5.27m compared with £3.94m.

Pre-tax profits under current cost accounting is £4.732m, an 18 per cent improvement over last year's £3.98m.

On the group's cigarette performance, the board says has been very satisfactory. The company increased its share of the domestic market over the year from 49 per cent to more than 50 per cent. Two products, Carrolls Number 1 and Major

Extra Size maintained their positions as the two largest selling brands in the country. Carroll also state that export sales volume increased over the year by 13 per cent.

As the board forecast at the time of Carroll's involvement with Fieldcrest Ireland, which was launched last July, the group's share of the first half of the year was 26.3m.

Fieldcrest, in which Carroll has a 25 per cent stake, produces Terry Towels.

from £5.8m to £6.5m. This figure included the bulk of the profits from the £10m Chinese contracts. Although these orders have not been renewed, and terminate in the first quarter of the current year, demand from the National Coal Board has taken up any potential slack.

The group's Kango hammer division, which has margins of some 20 per cent, also improved.

Despite a capital spending programme of £5m Dobson still has net cash balances of £2.76m. The group makes no secret of looking for an acquisition. However talks with Mining Supplies have not been renewed.

With orders running ahead of last year, lossmakers either turned round or sold, and prospects of overseas associates and subsidiaries looking healthy, the final dividend rises by 15 per cent to 4.1p giving shareholders a total of 6.6p for the year. The shares rose 6p to 86p yesterday where they yield 7.5 per cent.

The mining machinery division increased its pre-tax profit

Dobson Park up as toy sales boom

By Alison Mitchell

Lurking below the surface of engineering and mining supplies group Dobson Park is a

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included the bulk of the profits from the £10m Chinese contracts. Although these orders have not been renewed, and terminate in the first quarter of the current year, demand from the National Coal Board has taken up any potential slack.

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Borthwick slightly ahead

By Baron Phillips

One of Britain's largest meat traders, Thomas Borthwick, managed to keep on the right course in the 2 months to September 13. Attributable profits rose just ahead at £4.56m against £4.55m.

This attributable profit is struck after including an extraordinary credit of £740,000. In last year's accounts the profit was struck after taking into account an extraordinary debit of £89,000. Without either of these extraordinary items, the picture would look somewhat different.

The processing and retailing group increased turnover by

around 12 per cent to £573.76m against £512.6m. Pre-tax

profits rose from £1.5m in 1978 and Borthwick finished the year 8 per cent ahead at £1.74m, compared with £1.62m. The group suffered tax charges almost double the 978 figure, £4.56m against £4.55m.

Earnings a share fell from last year's 10.5p to 8.7p, but the final dividend of 3.6p brings the 12 months' total to 6.2p, the same at last time.

The board states that the mainstream meat business produced a satisfactory, but unexciting result. The Australian and New Zealand operations did well, but weak market con-

ditions in the United Kingdom for lamb hit New Zealand.

Outside Borthwick's main business, some of the group's newer operations are moving forward, the board reports. It highlights the performance of its "vigorously expanding retail chain" in the United Kingdom and France.

It now considers that the group exercises sufficient influence over the Standard Poultry Company to classify the company as an associate.

The board also reports exchange losses of £2.4m which it attributes to the strength of sterling. This loss has been charged to reserves.

Brittains calls in receiver

Staffordshire paper group Brittains, whose shares have been suspended since January 19, is to be put into the hands of a receiver of a receiver.

The group, which employs under 1,000 people, is unlikely to be able to make any payment to shareholders after the assets have been sold.

Last year Equity Capital for Britain invested £1.5m in Brittains, of which only £500,000 was secured loan capital.

The other major shareholder is Oxford University Press

over £1m in the secured capital group creditors and overdrafts of over £2m will leave nothing for shareholders. During the current year there has been a substantial erosion of the group's asset base.

Shareholders have not yet received the 1978 annual report and the latest published figures to June 1978 show consolidated profits to £263,000 compared to £260,000 last year.

A receiver was appointed to Britannia Paper in May.

Although the gross asset is unlikely to be trading it is in the black for some time.

MEPC: Development of fine phase of Cumbrian shopping centre has been awarded to M.E.P.C. Ltd by Wilkins and Glyn's Bank. The company has received substantial orders from home and overseas customers, and the present order book covers a considerable proportion of budgeted production for 1980.

MILFORD DOCKS: Mr R. E. Riddell of Scanor has sold his interests in Milford Docks, buying it and a group of supporters claiming a 30.8 per cent of the shares, wish to appoint three directors as a minority on the board to seek improve company's return on capital.

TELFEDDIE RAGAMALA INVESTMENTS: Board making arrangements for a co-operation already for a consideration of shares which will transform the nature of Telfeddie and will result in shareholders receiving a cash offer of 20p per share for the ordinary and 25p for each preference.

GRI INTERNATIONAL: Shareholders of GRI International have approved the issue of 2,560,000 G.R.I. shares for £1.00 each for India, and the Trustees of the National Coal Board Pension Fund, ECI and the Trustees of NCB Pension Funds are subscribing equally to the issue, which will yield about 2.2%.

LINDEN AND PARTNERS: Group is negotiating sale of its Autoflow engineering subsidiary in City Cross of Thame, Oxfordshire, for an undisclosed amount. It is a leading manufacturer of specialist tank-matching machinery.

PYKE (HOLDINGS) LTD: After a difficult year, the considerable effort has been made during the year to improve profitability of subsidiaries as part of the continuing programme. Because Midland Pyke will shortly be moving to new premises, He is confident that the results of boards efforts will be reflected in next year's figures.

STENHOUSE GROUP: The Glasgow-based international group has announced that from January 1st all the group's operating companies throughout the world will have the name Reed Stenhouse. Move is to unify the identity of the organisation on the international scene.

GENERAL ENGINEERING: General Engineering Radcliffe 1973 Ltd, which took over the business and commercial units of the General Engineering Co (Radcliffe) Ltd, has syndicated the loan.

YEARLING BONDS: Interest rate on this week's issues of local authority yearling bonds has been cut to 15.1 per cent to the lowest level reached 1 month and in January 1976. The price is 100 (last week 15.1 per cent at 100).

NEWS CORPORATION: The News Corporation, which the new Australian holding company for News Limited's media interests throughout the world, has raised a medium-term loan of £150m for the refinancing of its UK business and for the expansion and general corporate purposes of the News Corporation Group Australia. The loan, which was arranged through a finance subsidiary of The News Corporation, was signed in London on December 11, 1979. Hambros Bank managed and syndicated the loan.

Interim Report

Arlington Motors

50% Increase in half year profits

International

HONGKONG LAND has agreed with Jardine Securities—a member of the Jardine Matheson Group—to acquire a 9 million ordinary shares in the Hongkong Land Group, which owns the Godown Co (53.3 per cent).

Following the acquisition, Hongkong Land Group will own just under 20 per cent of the issued share capital of HK Wharf.

In addition, Hongkong Land will acquire from Jardines their 25.9 per cent interest in East Point Hotels, which owns the Excelsior Hotel, bringing its total interest to 78 per cent.

The outstanding 78.1 per cent interest in East Point management, the Excelsior Hotel Management, and the 50 per cent interest not already owned by Hongkong Land in Ewoland which owns the Excelsior Shopping Centre.

* Half Year figures unaudited and after a full tax charge

- A very successful bus and coach sales season, helped by profits from Northampton Car Auctions and a useful contribution from petrol sales have resulted in record first half year figures.
- We are fortunate in having a wide spread of motor related activities. Overall, therefore, despite present uncertainties, we look forward to another satisfactory year.
- Dividend policy will be reviewed at the year end.

ARLINGTON MOTOR HOLDINGS
Commercial & Passenger Vehicles • Car Sales • Servicing
Vehicle Parts & Accessories • Petrol Auctions
Leasing • Self Drive & Contract Hire
Bodybuilding • Non Performance

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By Our Financial Staff

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Fieldcrest, in which Carroll has a 25 per cent stake, produces Terry Towels.

Barker & Dobson loss; no interim payment

Warning from board at Cutler Guard

The paper-making group of Cutler Guard Bridge Holdings reported its pre-tax profits by 26.8 per cent to £228,000 in the half-year to September 30. But the board finds it difficult to be optimistic about the outcome of the current year.

Cutler, the troublesome Irish subsidiary, has now transferred its selling and distribution divisions to Irish Tea Merchants but the move cost Cutler £114,000 in redundancies. Mr Ronald Aitken, chairman, said that the company is now trading profitably and he believes the losses will not be repeated.

But trading conditions remain difficult in the sugar-based confectionery industry and there has been a substantial reduction in demand," he added.

But Mr Aitken is optimistic about next year, although he admitted recovery is unlikely in the second half. "The measures we have taken will provide for sound growth in the future."

First-half knock to Beechwood

Beechwood Construction (Holdings) is now down by a fifth in the current year.

In spite of turnover for the half-year to September 30 rising by 10 per cent to £5.4m, pre-tax profits fell by almost 22 per cent to £254,000. Increased costs, heavier interest charges, unsatisfactory weather, the higher cost of fuel and bituminous products and the engineering dispute are all blamed for the setback.

However, the interim payment is being lifted from 4.5p to 5.5p gross. As arrangements for a term loan of £1.25m has been concluded with Barclays Bank, the board is proposing new articles of association to boost the group's borrowing powers. Based on the

1978-79 accounts, this would mean the board would now be able to borrow up to £9.75m.

Rothschild Trust's revenue up 25 per cent

Rothschild Trust's revenue up 25 per cent to £27.03m (Irish currency), pre-tax profits of the Dublin-based James Crean group rose by 30.8 per cent to £1.98m in the 12 months to June 30. The total dividend is being lifted from 7.5p (adjusted) to 8.5p gross.

As known, the interim payment gross is being lifted from 2.95p to 3.5p. Net asset value per 50p ordinary share at September 30: pre-conversion, 3.76p (30.8p a year earlier) and post-conversion, 3.68p (30.7p a year earlier).

Wilson Bros down in first six months

With turnover down from £7.14m to £7m for the half-year to September 30, pre-tax profits of the Wilson Bros greeting cards group fell from £562,000 to £345,000. However, the board expects that the trading profit turnover ratio will increase in the second half and, notwithstanding heavier interest charges, the year's pre-tax profits should not be materially different from the previous year's.

N. Brown climbs by 43 pc at half-time

On turnover 14.1 per cent greater at £9.35m, pre-tax profits of direct mail order group N. Brown Investments jumped by 43 per cent to £431,000 in the six months to September 1. Earnings per share have risen from 1.85p to 2.5p, while the interim dividend is held at 1.17p gross. The board explains that it would

not be appropriate to make a further disruptive action. Mr Walter R. Alexander, the chairman, expects the year's profits

to show a "satisfactory increase" over 1978-79's £2.75m pre-tax.

James Crean almost at £2m mark

On turnover 25.7 per cent up to £27.03m (Irish currency), pre-tax profits of the Dublin-based James Crean group rose by 30.8 per cent to £1.98m in the 12 months to June 30. The total dividend is being lifted from 7.5p (adjusted) to 8.5p gross.

Another rise in pre-tax profits is expected for the current year. Crean covers many activities including the bottling and distribution of stout and beer and the manufacture of mineral water.

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 10. Dealings End, Dec 27. Contango Day, Dec 28. Settlement Day, Jan 7
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

BELL'S SCOTCH WHISKY BELL'S

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 12 1979

PERSONAL CHOICE

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davall

TELEVISION

BBC 1

12.45 pm News and weather:
1.00 Pebble Mill at One: Greta Whicker's
Whicker's: Journalist and broad-
caster, gives some advice about
Christmas cooking.

1.45 Over the Moon: the story is
What Goes Up Comes Down. Close-
down at 2.00.

3.00 Dechra: Siarai: Welsh pro-
gramme.

3.15 Della Smith's Cookery Course:

the art of making a good Christmas
pudding (r.).

3.30 School: the story is
Trouble in the Ark.

4.20 Picnic and Dixie: cartoon.

Heavens to Jinkie (r.).

4.45 Jackanory: John Grant reads
his story Littlestone the Dancer.

4.46 Farand, Lord of the Jungle:

animatronic. The Bear in the
Iron Mask.

5.00 John Craven's Newsround:

Junior newsreaders.

5.05 The Enchanted Castle: last
episode of the E. Nesbit story
about a magic ring. Tonight: the

children are stranded on their
island.

5.15 News: with Peter Woods.

5.25 Nationwide: News bulletins
apart, this is the one regular pro-
gramme whose contents you can
never be sure about in advance.

5.45 Angels: hospital series. Why
one nurse is not happy about work-

ing in the gynaecology ward.

7.10 Star Trek: repeat showing of
one of the segments of the televi-
sion series from which the present
movie version sprang.

7.30 Masterpiece: the third mini-
film. Magnus Magnusson will put
the questions on: English poetry,
the life and work of Billie Holiday,
the life of Trotsky, and Vikings in
Scotland and Ireland between 800
and 1050 AD.

8.25 The Tower: This is the
episode which many viewers com-
plained about, saying it was in very
poor taste. It is the one in which
a hotel guest dies and his body has
to be carted out of the building

9.00 Party Political Broadcast: by
the Labour Party. Also carried on
BBC 2 and the ITV network.

9.15 News: with Richard Baker.

9.35 Robinson's Travels: part one
of Robert Robinson's odyssey

through India (see Personal
Choice).

10.45 Sportscast: coverage of the
World Gymnastics Championship

from Fort Worth, Texas. Will

Nadia Comaneci, the wonder girl
from Romania, again steal the

honours? This edition also fea-

tures the men's apparatus cham-

pionships.

11.32 Parkinson: with William

Shatner (of Star Trek) James

Burke and Max Boyce.

12.07 am Weather.

Regions

NBC 1 VARIATIONS: Wales: 5.10 pm

Midweek: 7.30pm Monday to Friday; 8.30

Angels: 10.30am News and weather;

Scotland: 10.25pm Sportscast.

5.35 Weather.

1.00 The World at One.

1.40 The Archers.

2.00 News.

2.02 Woman's Hour.

2.20 You and Yours.

2.27 Plays: And No Birds Sing;

London.

2.35 Weather.

3.25 Young British Composers:

Nicholson Graham, Flimiss.

4.05 BBC Concert: Orch: Mes-

sager.

5.15 Young Music Makers: +

2.35 Homeward Bound.

5.45 News.

5.50 Homeward Bound.

6.15 At Home.

7.10 Flute quartets: Mozart, Rous-

+ + +

8.00 BBC SO: Gilean (live from

Festival Hall): Goehr (Babylon

The Great is Fallen). 1st perf.

8.50 Six Continents.

9.10 BBC SO: Beethoven (Choral

Paradiso).

10.00 The World Tonight.

11.30 News.

12.15-12.30 am Weather.

Radio 4

6.00 am News Briefing.

6.10 Farming Today.

6.30 Today.

7.00 8.00 News.

8.35 Headlines.

8.35 Yesterday in Parliament.

9.00 News.

9.05 Mid-Week with Russell Harty.

9.05 News.

9.15 Gardeners' Question Time.

10.30 Daily Service.

10.45 The Bandit's Daughter

(3).

11.00 News.

11.45 Baker's Dozen.

12.00 pm You and Yours.

12.27 Plays: And No Birds Sing;

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Radio 3

6.55 am Weather.

7.00 News.

7.05 Records: Chabrier, Debussy,

Sauvage.

8.00 News.

8.05 Records: Wagenseil, Rei-

chard, Mozart, Albrechtsberger.

9.00 News.

9.05 Early (Apostles Pt II).

9.10 Organ: Fricker, Bach, Men-

delichs.

10.30 Strings: Raff, Gibbons.

11.35 BBC Scottish SO/Henry

Levi: Haydn (Sym 88), Mozart,

Walton.

1.00 pm News.

1.05 Choral music: Handel, Cop-

land, Ives, Cowell, Marcello.

1.20 Minstrel Weekly.

1.30 Weather.

1.40 The World at One.

1.40 The Archers.

2.00 News.

2.02 Woman's Hour.

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RADIO

5.00 am Weather.

5.15 The Magic Of Green On

Loesser.

5.30 Sports Desk.

6.00 Hubert Gregg.

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from time to time, and where
each day mistakes do occur and
we ask therefore that you check
your ad. and if you spot an
error, report it to the Classified
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will be issued to the advertiser.
On any subsequent queries
regarding the cancellation, this
Stop Number must be quoted.

Some trust in charlors, and
some in horses, but we will
remember the name of the LORD
and God. Psalm 20:7

BIRTHS
BINGHAM, On December 5th
in the 10th Calves and Nicholas
— son, brother for Alexandra.
BIRCHMORE, On December 5th
St. Mary's, Paddington, 10
Penny, nee Parker, a brother
for Tom and Polly.
CAMPBELL, On December 13, 1979
at St. M.A.R.Y., Weybridge, Surrey
John, a son for Alice and
Jane, a sister for Alice.
CHALMERS, On December 13th
in St. Paul's Hospital,
Wimbledon. In donations to
the Heart Foundation.
DAVIES, On December 5th
in her 80th year, a daughter
of the late Mr and Mrs J. Davies.
DEMPSTER, DOROTHY.—Formerly
of 102, Grosvenor Road, Chelsea,
London, died on December 13th
after a short illness.
DODGE, DEIRDRE.—Recently
married, beloved by all her family,
Replies, Mass at 10, Grosvenor
Road, Chelsea, London, 10.
DOVE, DEIRDRE.—Recently
married, beloved of her family,
Replies, 10 Grosvenor Road, Chelsea,
London, 10.

ELDERFIELD, FREDERICK
—On December 1st, suddenly
at her home, 124 High Hill, London,
aged 81 years. Funeral service
on Friday at United Reform
Church, High Street, Enfield, N.E. 1.
Maurice, son of Dr. and Mrs. F. R.
Elderfield, died on December 1st.
SCOTT.—On December 1st, 1979,
after a long illness, Fredrick
Scott, 10, Grosvenor Road, Chelsea,
London, 10.

SHAWTYRE, ON December 1st, 1979,
at his home, 124 High Hill, London,
aged 81 years. Funeral service
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SMITH, ROBERT.—On December 1st,
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